■ Entertainment
Zsa Zsa's daughter says no family ties with Dolphy

■ News/A2
Tug-of-war over Faustino Dy heats up

■ World/A10
Shuttle Discovery lands safely in California

■ Business/B1
Oil surges to new high of $64/barrel; markets watch Saudi, Iran

■ Sports
Palace 'squeeze play' clips Pagdanganan's powers as chief SEAG organizer

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Wednesday, August 18, 2010 ● 32 pages / vol. 28 / no. 243

Malacañang on attack mode

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Armando N. Nocum

AFTER weeks of enduring body blows from the opposition on the "parking" payola issue, Malacañang is now on attack mode and its mouthpieces are relishing every minute of it.

With two parking witnesses coming out in public decrying the opposition's move to influence their testimonies at the last hour days...

PHILIPPINE PAGE A-10

website: www.inq7.net

Ping witness told: Testify at own risk

CAPT. MARLON MENDOZA, Lacson's witness, is under the glare of floodlights

AFP claims intel officer engaged in ₱8-M scam

By Donn E. Pazcoguin and Julie Lalong-Javellana

THE ARMED Forces yesterday warned the witness of opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson against testifying at the Senate, saying he would be in violation of military regulations if he did so.

Lt. Col. Bienvenido Patrick, AFP public information chief, also said in a news conference that the military, Capt. Marlon Mendoza, had told false military documents...

FULL STORY A-10

EXPULSION OF EVIL SPIRITS. Fr. Antonio Reyes, with arm raised, and Fr. Reef "Pot" Enriquez sprinkle supernatic amount of holy water on the photos of the members of the House of Representatives to clean up their negativism ahead the impeachment complaint.

Holy water, incense exorcise House 'devils'

By Philip C. Tubeza

WEARING white cassock and a purple stole, Fr. Robert Reyes, popularly known as the "exorcising priest," yesterday "exorcised" the House of Representatives and all of evil spirits on the eve of impeachment hearings against President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The House committee on justice starts today its hearings on the impeachment complaint filed by the opposition to determine whether it is sufficient in form and substance.

The complaint, which has so far obtained 41 signatures, accuses Mr. Arroyo of culpable violation of the Constitution, corruption and bribery in connection with last year's presidential election.

After the use of exorcism, Archbishop Antonio Tobias blessed the impeachment complaint and 60 roses (but signified the 59 votes required to transmit the complaint to the Senate for trial.

"The entire whole cast goes to Speaker Jose de Venecia," said Bonito Mona Sep. Betty Gonzalez, sitting with protagonists Representatives Arroyo and Speaker Jose de Venecia, attended the Mass for Truth and Justice.

"If the Speaker would not re-

FULL STORY A-10

SAVING IT WITH ROSES. After celebrating Mass at the Batasang Pambansa, Bishop Tobias blesses the impeachment complaint for filing "complaint" members of 59 to be attained, plus one for Speaker De Venecia.

Harvard prof defends, rebuts alien kidnaps

THERE'S more to aliens abducting than skeptics think, according to a psychologist at Harvard University.

People who have encounters of being abducted by aliens illustrate the numerous ways in which we explain away the unexplainable, he said.

They would not talk about hypnosis or the unconscious...

FULL STORY A-10

Untold story from the 'White House'

By Christian V. Esguerra

A WEEK before Malacañang Zoo revealed the alleged "la vista payoffs," an election officer executed a handwritten statement about a similar set-about by unnamed that he recalled "White House" in Clark Field, Pampanga, three days before last year's election.

The eight-page statement by Reclusorial Gerardo, election officer of Precinct 0001, San Antonio, was submitted last week to Archbishop Oscar Cruz's Kilusang Bayan Laban sa Isaterong (Crusade Against Illegal Gambling). A copy of the document was obtained by the Inquirer yesterday from the Crusade as one...

FULL STORY A-10

Cruz: I'm not an unwitting 'jueteng' foe

By Yolanda Sotto-Fuentes

SAGUBAN CITY—Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz said he was not happy that his crusade against "jueteng" was overthought helping the opposition's efforts to bring down the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

But Cruz said it was beyond his control if he or his crusade would be dragged into the political arena.

He said it was not his problem if the political opposition was using on his campaign crusade to unseat the President.

"We have been against jueteng since 2001 and nobody minded us, especially the administration. Now that the jueteng issue has exploded, they say that we are destabilizers and incumbents, and that we are being used...

FULL STORY A-10

There's no clear winner yet in ARMM

By the PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—Election officials yesterday pledged to investigate complaints of irregularities in the regional polls in Mindanao, with partial returns showing no clear winner yet in the race for governor and vice governor.

Initial canvassing results show that Lanao Governor Zacaria Datu Pato Imperium was winning in his own province of Maguindanao.

FULL STORY A-10

Dengue here to stay; 12,308 taken ill

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE NUMBER of Filipinos carrying dengue fever continues to soar despite strict sanitation measures put in place by local governments and the Department of Health.

From Jan. 1 to Aug. 7, 12,308 cases nationwide, including 139 deaths, have been reported from Jan. 1 to Aug. 7, according to a DOH update released yesterday.

The figures represented a 15 percent rise in the number of dengue cases registered in the same period last year. Back then, the DOH documented 10,690 cases.

Considering the current trend, government health experts are expecting around 20,000 cases by October of the "dengue season" in October, according to Dr. Eduardo Janairo, chief of the DOH National Epidemiology Center.

Janairo said the outbreak was still a far cry from the 40,000 cases reported during the dengue crisis in 1998. He said the health officials would be worried if the number of deaths reported within the same number of cases in an area was more than 2 percent threshold.

"It is not actually high, but we are all working to minimize the number of infections," he told the Inquirer yesterday.

Head of the health chief within 48 hours, suggesting that they had been afflicted with a "strain" clone of dengue or were close to striking resistance, he said.

There was good news in Quezon City where Barangay Pag-asa...

FULL STORY A-10

A3
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2003
Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

Tug-of-war over ex-governor

By Michael Lim Ubac, Juliet Labog-Javellana and TJ Burgonio

JUST whose witness is he?

Bicam Major Ex Leader Prospero Pichay yesterday lamented former Sultan Kudarat Gov. Reuben Ong Jr. would be testifying for the administration, belying House Minority Leader Francis Escudero's claim on Monday that his talks with Ong in the US had been "successful and fruitful."

Escudero, however, did not say if he was returning to Manila somewhere with Ong in tow.

"Chot, Escudero! Isa-isa nyo! Hati ba na hindi updates si Governor Dy several times already and that he will have several meetings prior to his coming back on Thursday As a matter of fact, I believe they are together right now," said South Cotabato Rep. Darlene Antonino-Custodio in reports.

Briefing on Monday

The Bicam committee on public order and games will resume their joint inquiry into the Fort Bonifacio alleged smokehouse in "jueteng," the illegal numbers game, at 11 a.m. today.

The hearings took on new life after opposition solons Michael Angelo Toledo and Raul Gonzalez Jr. were notified that election officials were bribed with "jueteng money" by President Macapagal-Arroyo at last La Vista home prior to last year's election.

Dy, Toledo said, was present at the dinner along with Lilia Pineda, wife of alleged jueteng lord Charlie Ang "Boying" Pineda who supposedly supplied the P50,000 given to each official.

Dy would be called to appear to reveal details or other circumstances surrounding the payoff, Custodio said.

Sen. Marina Pilar, public order committee chair, said the committee had not received confirmation Dy would be coming to the hearing.

What said the committees were not going to wait for him before wrapping up their investigation, unless Dy would be "unreasonable" in appearing in the next few days.

"I just don't want anybody to say that the Senate was afraid to summon him. We invited him but if he will not show up, we're not going to wait for him," Pilar said in a phone interview.

Escudero, who flew to Los Angeles last week to meet with Dy, had said he would be appearing in the next few days.

"I just don't want anybody to say that the Senate was afraid to summon him. We invited him but if he will not show up, we're not going to wait for him," Pilar said in a phone interview.

Escudero, who flew to Los Angeles last week to meet with Dy, had said he would be appearing in the next few days.

Dy, in a statement last week, said that he would "not surrender" if he received a formal invitation from Congress to testify, taking into account his security in view of threats on his life.

"The opposition is hallucinating when it claims Dy may testify readily against President Arroyo," Nograles said.

He stressed that prompting Dy's testimony would be "an act of absolute desperation" by the opposition.

"The administration is confident the (former) governor won't allow himself to be used by the opposition. Sir (Dy) said so himself," Nograles said.

Custodio, however, claimed that Dy had already agreed to testify for the opposition.

"That's the assurance," she said.

To the question of whether the opposition trusted Dy completely, Custodio said: "If he's denying the meeting in La Vista, if he's defending GMA, then why wait (to be summoned by Bicam) Senate and impeachment court? But it seems that there's more to it than that."

She added: "As long as he tells the truth, what he says will be all right. What really occurred during the meeting, that's the question, but we will be very happy with that statement because all of us here are just seeking the truth."

Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago said Dy refuses to return to the country for fear of his life.

"When the Senate committees can do is to order his testimony to be taken on deposition in the US before a Filipino consul," Santiago said.

She said Dy would either impeach or corroborate Zuño's testimony.

"If Zuño is impeached, his eyewitness account would be worthless. If Zuño is corroborated, the burden of proof will shift to President Arroyo. Thus, Dy's testimony in the current Senate probe is crucial," Santiago said.

Some opposition senators, meanwhile, are planning to fly to the US this week to meet with Dy.

The minority bloc is arranging the trip of some of its members to confirm with Dy if he would be pressing ahead with his testimony at the Senate, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel said yesterday.

"We're sending a delegation to get in touch with him so we'll know for sure whether he's coming to the Senate, investigation or not... not just by second-hand information," Pimentel said.

He did not say who would be in the delegation.

SC verdict on VAT seen next week

THE SUPREME Court yesterday started formal deliberations on whether to lift its freeze on an expanded value-added tax, and a court spokesman said a final decision was possible next week.

While the 15 justices did not finish their debates and they need to meet again next Tuesday, court spokesman Jose Midas Marquez said.

"I think the court would still be able to come out with its decision on the case before the end of this month, hopefully by next week," Bihag said.

"The court runs normal as by the end of the month," Khan said, but added he did not think it would take that long.

The broadening of an existing value-added tax (VAT) is at the center of the government's fiscal reforms, which are aimed at boosting chronically weak revenues and allowing the country to end its heavy deficit-driven outlay to fund its budget.

But it will push up prices for consumers and businesses by ending exemptions on items including fuel and electricity. A Congress committee also gave President Macapagal-Arroyo the power to raise the VAT rate by as much as 12 percent from 10 percent.

Petroleum dealers, minority lawmakers and a provincial government have filed separate petitions against the expanded VAT.

Khan said the judges were focusing on two main arguments: whether the president can raise the tax rate now and, and whether Congress' bicameral conference committee can include provisions in the law that were not approved in the lower house.

For example, the VAT bill would also raise the corporate tax rate to 35 percent from 32 percent for three years, after which it would fall to 30 percent. The provision was not included in the version passed by the House of Representatives. Reuters

FAMILY THREATENED?

Palace exec under duress, says colleague

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

REMARKABLE may have been threatened.

This could be the reason former Malacañang undersecretary Jesus Mia Rufino has denied endorsing to Malacañang the appointment of former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, contrary to Zuño's claim.

In his affidavit, Zuño, who also worked under Rufino, had appended a memorandum dated Oct. 17, 2003, signed by Bayan endorsing Garcillano's appointment to Bir Serwyn. Garcillano and the President were set to attend the dinner-meeting. "Hello Garci" issue purportedly proving electoral fraud.

In a press conference, Bayan and Zuño's statements were "all completely false and designed by him to bring down the present administration."

The problem for the PMSC is Bayan himself was talking about bringing down the administration just last month.

Once exposed, anomalies that could finally lead to the ouster of Ms Arroyo). And here is our chairman saying Zuño is not a credible man," Rufino had said in an earlier interview.

He said a common friend told him that Bayan wanted to "control the apology to the group." He did not elaborate.

"He will ask (Bayan) to justify his testimony if that is really his personal decision, be it not fit to be our chairman," Rufino said.

In the group's press conference last month, Bayan himself announced they were aligning themselves with the group of retired Gen. Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. (saying) he's a revolutionary. I understand (Ebdane) wanted to take over from President Arroyo.

Bayan even threatened to push for a separate Republic of Mindanao if Ms Arroyo insisted on clinging to power amid the scandals cracking her administration.

"If she will not step down (with Vice President Noli de Castro), there will be massive movements to call for her resignation," Bayan had warned.

Heed the surveys, Ramos tells GMA

By Cynthia D. Balana and Christine O. Avendaño

FORMER President Fidel V. Ramos on Monday night encouraged President Macapagal-Arroyo to rely on scientific surveys in order to improve her leadership and to determine the true sentiments of the people.

"To me (due to the scientific method of determining public opinion on various important issues) about the country, especially poor voter concerns," Ramos told reporters after speaking during the 20th anniversary celebration of the Social Weather Stations.

He said scientific surveys, like those conducted by SWS, are the "very accurate gauge" of public opinion on various issues affecting the government and the people.

Ramos said he had suffered a double adversity in terms of negative ratings, too, in May 1995, at the height of the Hot Concrete Mixture scandal, and in August 1997, during the rice shortage following typhoons that struck the country.

But his ratings later improved, he said, when he started addressing other important aspects of governance and turned the Philippines into a tiger economy, he said.

Ramos also said that the surveys done before the President's State of the Nation Address (Sona) last July 25 were incomplete and inaccurate in terms of her future directions.

He agreed that the President should not be misled by surveys done within a limited geographical area. "As the people of Mindanao have very accurately said, Metro Manila is not the Philippines."

SWS President Mahar Mangahas dismissed the latest SWS survey wherein the President's distrust rating "improved" from 53 percent to 46 percent.

"It just showed a slightly lower distrust but it's still distrust. So kind it's so small that I don't think it's worth analyzing it over," Mangahas told reporters on Monday night.

In the SWS telephone poll of 500 Metro Manila residents from Aug. 2 to 4, the President's distrust rating was at 46 percent, barely lower than the 47 percent reported in the July poll.

On the other hand, trust in her was only 22 percent, also slightly higher than the 19 percent rating she got in the previous telephone poll conducted from July 22 to 24 of this year.

Malacañang, however, was optimistic that the President's ratings in the next surveys would improve once two jueteng witnesses had taken back their testimony that the First Family was involved in the illegal numbers game.

Former Secretary Ignacio Bunye made the assertion following the Pulse Asia survey showing that eight out of 10 Filipinos believe that some members of the President's family were involved in jueteng.

Bunye told reporters that the Pulse Asia survey, which ensured the July 25 to July 1 period, was taken before jueteng witnesses Rizalino Navarro and Democrito Mendoza Mitra retracted their statements implicating the First Family in jueteng.

Bunye said the next surveys would undoubtedly see "a change in the direction of people who believe the jueteng allegations against the First Family if they learn about the retractions of these two witnesses."

Computers to unclog Sandigan

By Helen T. Flores

THE SANDIGANBAYAN will get rid of the backlog of cases when it "computerizes its system" with the help of the United States Agency for International Development.

Justice Teresita de Castro, anti-graft court and concurrent Special Division chair, made the announcement as the reinstated ex-earlier Special Division was hearing the hearing of plunder cases of former President Joseph Estrada on Aug. 22, 24, 29 and 31.

She told government lawyers led by Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio and members of Estrada's legal defense team, lawyers Jose Flaminiano and Rene Saguisag, that during the suspended trial days, members of the Special Division would be undergoing the Philippine Judicial Academy computer literacy training.

Supreme sources at the Sandiganbayan said 29 computer units are arriving this month while 17 other units, including laptops, were expected next month.

As of June 2003, the Sandiganbayan has 3,037 pending civil and criminal cases, including high profile plunder cases of Estrada and retired Armed Forces comptroller Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia.

NBI finally launches all-out manhunt for Garcillano

By Marguax C. Dris

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has officially begun the intensified search for fugitive-actor Tirso Garcillano, brother of Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

NBI spokesperson Katrina Paz said the bureau has assigned the NBI National Capital Region office to take charge of the manhunt upon receiving the warrant of arrest from Congress on Monday.

"We have also relayed the directive to the bureau's regional and district offices nationwide," Paz said in an interview with reporters yesterday.

Paz said added that the bureau would also ask Interpol to help locate Garcillano, who has reportedly left the country for either London or Singapore.

"Because we do not have extradition treaties with these countries, we would file an application to have Garcillano included in the Interpol's red notice or list of wanted persons," Paz said.

Paz said earlier clarified that there are no criminal charges filed against the Commissioner and stressed that the administrative warrant issued against Garcillano would only force him to attend the congressional hearing.

The Philippines has extradition treaties with the United States, Australia, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Micronesia, Canada, Thailand and Switzerland.

Paz said explained that these countries are used to extradite individuals with criminal charges.

The NBI spokesperson also said the bureau would forward all documents pertaining to the Garcillano affidavit to the Interpol main headquarters in France.

She added that 182 countries are members of the Interpol.

"The countries could act on the Garcillano case and help send him back to the Philippines," Paz said said.

The NBI spokesperson said that although the duration of Interpol's last earlier stressed that Garcillano was not able to leave the country, they are "exhausting every means possible to locate the Commissioner."

Gov't serves notice of impending arrest of NDF leaders

By Vuk Cosovic

THE GOVERNMENT has notified the diplomatic community of the possible arrest of leaders of the National Democratic Front, two weeks after the leftist rebel group withdrew from peace talks with what it called a "crumbling" Arroyo administration.

The Department of Foreign Affairs briefed foreign envoys yesterday on the effect of the NDF's withdrawal and that of Hedcheng's Aug. 2 decision to suspend the safe conduct passes of at least 97 NDF leaders and members.

Nebeda said the pass will either be accepted if they have unserved warrants or have their cases arrested, said Foreign Undersecretary Rene Saguisag, acting presidential adviser on the peace process.

Those "legitimate" police and military actions will start Sept. 3, when the 90-day grace period has elapsed after the government served notice to the NDF about the suspension, Saguisag said reporters after the closed-door diplomatic briefing.

"After Sept. 3, there will be arrests if the NDF fails to show a willingness to return to the negotiating table," the official added.

The pass was issued to several top NDF personnel in 1995 under the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees or Jasig. It has been suspended by the government three times since ... once in 1995 and once in 1999.

Jasig was the instrument that allowed the rebel leaders to participate in the peace talks, the undersecretary explained.

"The Philippine government assures the international community that the rights of all members of the NDF, the Communist Party of the Philippines, and the New People's Army who may be apprehended shall be fully protected under the law," DFA Secretary Alberto Romulo told the diplomats in the briefing.

On July 30, NDF chief negotiator Luis Jalandoni announced the organization's withdrawal from the talks, saying it would rather wait for the "next administration."

The NDF pullout, the latest of many episodes that had stalled the 15-year-old talks, came with the mounting calls for President Macapagal-Arroyo's ouster over the "Hello, Garci" and "jueteng" scandals.

Jalandoni then predicted that Ms Arroyo "will not last very long" in power.

Asked who among the NDF figures on the list of those facing arrest with the Jasig's suspension, Saguisag cited Jalandoni, his wife Connie Ledesma, Wilel Aguiluz, Antero Pedro, and a "Ben Magdiwa" ... the last he believed to be a mere alias.

Romulo assured embassy representatives that despite this latest snag to the talks, the Arroyo administration will pursue the peace process through local government units and communities as well as through civil society.

Pirating 'Harry'

COPYRIGHT pirates in the Philippines have found a new way of copying the latest chapter from author ... selling the contents on computer discs in the sidewalks of Metro Manila.

"Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince," the sixth instalment of the popular boy wizard's adventures at the Hogwarts school of magic, was released on July 16 and has been enjoying robust sales in bookshops.

In the Philippines, copies have been translated in computer format and CDs can be purchased from street vendors for P500 to P600.

The discs, which can be read on any computer, sell for much less than the book which retails for about P1,500.

The Trade Department's Intellectual Property Office said they had not heard of the CDs and previously the only books being illegally copied in the Philippines were academic textbooks.

AFP

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2005

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SPORTS

Editor Teddyboy S. Melendres

'Squeeze play' clips Obet's powers

President appoints Peping, Ramirez as lead SEAG movers

By Marvin B. Carrillo

MALACAÑANG has had enough of the delays and the uncertainties.

MALACAÑANG

Erap bares 'blueprint for progress'

By Nelson E. Flores

ESTRADA

MANILA, Philippines—President Joseph Estrada yesterday asked the public to support the "Blueprint for a viable Philippines" drafted by University of the Philippines academics and civil society leaders.

Estrada, in a statement, said the blueprint was the product of 20 round table discussions organized by former UP President Francisco Nemenzo, "at a time when the country's economic, political and social systems face imminent collapse due to unprecedented and unbridled corruption."

He said the blueprint includes viable options, which would be of enormous help in "putting our fiscal house in order."

The 68-year-old Estrada, who is facing plunder and perjury charges before the Sandiganbayan, said the blueprint would also improve the country's business prospects and the plight of the poor.

"With sufficient support from all sectors, the blueprint will go a long way toward setting our country back on the road to genuine progress," Estrada, who is detained in his sprawling rest house in Tanay, Rizal, said.

The blueprint, which was presented to media by representatives from the UP Office of the President, UP Third World Study Center and the UP League of College Councils, recommended the synchronization of the tax-collecting arms and the purging of wrongdoings from military and police establishments, among others.

"The agricultural sector's importance to the country's development cannot be underscored enough and that is the reason why any administration is mistaken if it continues efforts to modernize it. Food security cannot be achieved without ensuring support for this sector," Estrada stressed.

He added that only after the government has put in place these recommendations would it truly claim that the Philippines is on the road to genuine progress.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, August 11, 2004
Tuesday of the Nineteenth Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Deut 10:12-22
Gospel: John 12:24-50

Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, unless the grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.

"Those who love their life destroy it, and those who despise their life in this world keep it for everlasting life.

"Whoever wants to serve me, let him follow me; and wherever I am, there shall my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him."

Commentary:

We were today in today's gospel, the gospel of the beloved disciple, the one who will lay down their life for the strengthening of the faith of the community. Jesus is speaking of himself and his own suffering and death, but he is also speaking of all those who will come after him in the way of the cross, and saying about their lives, but not to the earth so that life and fruit, and the promise of those who have loved will live forever. The blood of martyrs is the seed of Christianity. Disciples and ex- celebrate Eucharist, a memorial to and for the resurrection of the Lord's death, the pain and sacrifice that has for the gain of living, dying and celebrating the dignity and gift of love. For us to serve is to, then we must lay down our lives daily in service, as disciples, perhaps for the future of today, down our lives literally to death. As we have loved, so we will die and live with Jesus.

(Divine Publication Inc., 20 Bonanza St., Off 19 San Antonio, Quezon City 1100 Box 14, Quezon City 1100 Quezon City. Tel. 724-0466 Fax 724-1620 E-mail: e-Ministry Website: http://www.bible-days.com Divine Publication Inc.) Use or reproduction of these are Divine Publication Inc.

Carmina
superjelly
na daw!

"Sa mga kanibal ko," sabi ni Carmina, "dahil meron na silang NIDO Jelly Watches!"

Ito ay ilang pinaniniguro ng NIDO Full-Cream sa bawat isang can. Nang dumalaw ang reporter na ito sa Villarosel residence, sumi-sweet ng kanibal ang 4 na designs na pinanggigilgilan ng batang ito. Parang ang lingin ni Carmina sa mga makukulay na relo. "Siguro masaya 'pag nagsuot nila, pahihiramin ako ng Jelly Watch nina Mary at Casey," ani Carmina. "Pero mas maliwet pa, bili na lang 'nil ako ng NIDO para may Jelly Watch na rin ako!" Hanggang August 15 lang ang promo kaya bili na kayo ng NIDO!

NIDO
FREE Jelly Watch

Get the new Jelly Watch for free. Collect all four designs!

Captain says Garci met Batangas gov before '04 polls

By Marlon Ramos
INQ Southern Luzon Bureau

BATANGAS CITY—"Jaybeng" knew no changed hands before the 2004 elections, Capt. Marlon Mendoza told the Inquirer last week.

By the captain's account, Batangas Gov. Armando Sanchez met with then Elections Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, whose nickname was Boy, gambling, in April and May last year.

Mendoza said the meetings were held first at a private beach resort in Bauan town, and a number of times at Air Force One, a nightclub in Sanchez' hometown Lipa City.

The nightclub is owned by Sanchez, according to Mendoza, but the governor has denied this.

Money changed hands?

Sanchez was named in the Senate inquiry into jueteng as one of the biggest gambling lords in the country—a charge that he has also denied.

Mendoza said Sanchez handed money to Garcillano during the meetings. Just he could not say exactly how much.

"I couldn't get that close. Now, because I know that what they were doing was wrong; second, because it's not my job to see to it, supot. I was just there to provide security to Garcillano," he said in Filipino.

In a phone interview with the Inquirer, Sanchez vehemently denied having met with Garcillano or with any other Commission on Elections official during the 2004 campaign and election period.

"What could he (Garcillano) have done to help me?" Sanchez said. "He's a registered voter here in Batangas!"

Asked if he knew Garcillano, Sanchez said: "Sir, I don't know him personally. But I know he was the Comelec commissioner assigned here in Southern Tagalog."

Garci emissaries

Garcillano—reportedly spoke only with Sanchez, not with emissaries of other Batangas gubernatorial candidates such as Charito Recto, Senator Edgardo Angara and former Senate Secretary Bienvenido Perez.

Reached for comment, spokesman and Hernandez both said they did not give us to the alleged disappearance of Garcillano's statements regarding the governor's alleged involvement in the 2004 elections.

The Inquirer showed Perez repeatedly text his mobile phone but those text-ed off.

Mendoza's diary corroborated that of Agustilo, who has to testify against Sanchez after the 2004 polls.

"We have a witness who recently gave new statements of how Garcillano and Comelec acquired thousands of votes," Atty. Lito Mayor Lilia "Baby" Pineda at the lawyer house in La Vista, Quezon City, in January 2004.

Ping witness told: Testify at own risk

Former page A6

Ilaw's claim that Commission on Elections officials had been paid to execute President Macapagal-Arroyo's victory in 2004 (See related story above.)

But the AFP yesterday jumped the gun on Lacson and protected its witness-to-be-indicted.

Bacani also delivered a warning: "It's his decision. But what I can say is, we have to protect our witnesses in the Armed Forces, and if he will appear without proper authority from the (AFP), he will be violating AFP regulations."

Mendoza, however, appeared undaunted.

"Let us not be afraid to stand up for the truth. It's now high time to help the country change for the better. See you at the beach," he also said.

Personal knowledge

At their own press conference later in the day, Mendoza's two lawyers cautioned that he would testify on his "personal knowledge" of how "cursing" scenes was used in the alleged election fraud.

"I do not want to presage the statement of Captain Mendoza, but it has something to do with the ongoing investigation about jueteng and also the so-called cheating in the elections," said Atty. Clemencio Bacani, who was elected the joint conference with retired Col. Antonio Sanchez.

An Inquirer source earlier said Mendoza knew about Garcillano's operation to manipulate the election results in Batangas's favor, including the supposed wrapping of bundles of ballots out of precincts in Garcillano by suspected jueteng lord Rodolfo "Boy" Pineda.

The AFP boss ordered Mendoza's case file—including documents other the business reported that the officer was Lacson's surprise witness.

In November 2003, Mendoza was ordered to cub-commander of MIG 21 of the 5th Infantry Division of the AFP Daily for the alleged "mission order" scam."

But the court-martial case against him and his former superiors, Lt. Col. Victor Batiada, and another MIG 21 member, M/Sgt. Hermino Cortiguera, has not moved beyond pre-trial investigation since then.

The Ilaws were accused of selling about 2,000 blank mission orders and mission receipts in 2003, for which they reportedly earned at least P6.7 million.

'Floating'

Mendoza, a civil engineering graduate of the Technological Institute of the Philippines, joined the military in 2001 as a probationary second lieutenant in the Army.

He was promoted to first lieutenant in 1997, and to captain in 2002.

He was assigned to Intly in 1998, and became assistant group commander of MIG 21 in January 2003.

In his purported text messages, Mendoza said he was requested by the Senate's Blue Ribbon quarter Support Group, the secret holding pen for "floating" officers, after he was relieved from duty.

He said his family had been harassed and "even killed large amounts of money" just to turn him over.

He and members of the Peoples Alcohol Security Group said both had been harassing his relatives and friends.

"I know they would discredit me, but I could and (accept) the fact they incited the Filipino people. The electronic vote-thusted," he said.

Pascual admitted that military officers had begun to look for Mendoza, but said they were not to arrest a subpoena for the pre-trial investigation.

"We're looking for him to his superior Lt. Col. Cirilo Aguinaldo) but he's not there. As of now we can't find him," Pascual said.

Personal request

According to documents that Mendoza requested to present at today's Senate hearing, Garcillano personally requested that Mendoza be assigned to him as his chief security during the 2004 elections.

Mendoza's appointment was approved by then Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita, upon the recommendation of then Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo. The assignment was for six months.

Garcillano also assigned Mendoza to Boy, the former Police Senior Superintendent who headed his own part of a special operation led by Garcillano and was present at the Ampo residence in La Mesa, Quezon City, when Garcillano officers supposedly received ballots from Pineda.

Mendoza has a picture of him, self and Boy somewhere in Mindanao dated May 14, 2004, shortly before.

Garcillano and Mendoza was cancelled after the "state in Mindanao" with Garcillano ended.

Both Garcillano and Sanchez ago could not explain why Garcillano had specifically asked for Mendoza to be detailed to him.

'Undeclared martial law'

The two lawyers said Mendoza was bent on telling what he knew.

"The guy is really determined," Cadelinaria said. "He said he is doing it for truth and for justice, and he is very emotional because he really feels there are a lot of abuses and corruption in the government."

Cadelinaria and Bacanga recalled the AFP for the supposed destabilize plot in Nov2003.

"This is undeclared martial law," Bacanga said. "The barefaced lie is being declared even before

Cruz: I'm not ...

Former page A1

for the opposition." Cruz said.

"Even if the administration declares it on me, that is beyond my control. But I'm not limiting myself," he said. There's a difference between one who is unwillingly drafted and one who chooses to be said." Cruz told the Inquirer in a telephone interview Saturday.

He reiterated that he cannot run next season to succeed Mayor Lito Atienza, who is term-limited.

Cruz is the concordant that of the Bishop Teresa Lilian in Antipolo.

"Only jueteng is motivated to accuse someone jueteng-running the Arroyo administration, as we will stop [our campaign], the case is to free the country from jueteng," he said.

Not with Lacson

He said he was not working with Sen. Panfilo Lacson in looking for or installing witnesses against the alleged jueteng payoffs.

"That is impossible. I have been the top talking core of the witnesses—hearing them, asking after their safety, asking for security for them, providing them food and accommodations," Cruz said.

He said a new witness will have to the administration would surface but he declined to identify the person.

Cruz does not believe that the alleged jueteng payoffs will stop now. If Mr. Arroyo steps down from office, "it has been their long fashion like Senator presidents," he said.

Untold story from the 'White House'

Former page A1

details that fall details, such as names of the participants, be withheld.

Cruz confirmed to the Inquirer that Gerardo was one of the witnesses he was supposed to present to the Senate hearings. The backed out at the last minute," Cruz said.

Gerardo recounted that he and five other provincial officials of the Commission on Elections were gathered by a Pampanga lawyer for a meeting at the White House on the afternoon of May 6, 2004—9:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on May 7, 2004—seven days before the presidential election. Gerardo quoted the lawyer as saying that Mr. Arroyo requested the meeting.

Solomon at middle: Isaac Romeo as Jairo Anaidez in the song "sitting" performed by students who are dancing on bubbles (Thank you for coming. How are you? I am depending on your help in order for us to win in the coming election)." Gerardo quoted the President as telling them.

Gerardo said the President, two Pampanga governors and Lito Banda, who is supposed "hacking" and Rodolfo "Boy" Pineda, then left the gathering and went to an office in the White House. After several hours, a man emerged and handed to each participant an envelope containing P50,000 in cash, Gerardo said.

Gerardo's executive echoed that outlined and a May 8, 30 p.m. will Malacañang opposition. Lacson said 27 Comelec officials attended a dinner in the house of Mr. Arroyo at the south La Roxa village in Quezon City in January—four months before the balloting—where she was said to appeal for help in the vote, after she left the gathering on the lower level of the house, envelopes containing P50,000 were distributed to the participants, Lacson said.

Never happened

Mr. Arroyo, engulfed in the worst political crisis of her 4-year-old presidency over election fraud, vehemently denied her family accused jueteng payoffs. She denied talking Comelec officials. Malacañang and the La Vista meeting that Lacson referred to never happened.

Unlike Lacson, Gerardo never got to tell his story in the Senate panel investigating jueteng payoffs. He was arrested by police-participated to police and politicians.

His Aug. 8, Gerardo and another election officer, Lilibeth Melgar of Bagiuio, Baguio, summoned at a news conference they had injected an apparatus effort to recruit them to testify against Mr. Arroyo. But their statements had no exchange for their testimony, the two were allowed money and El visas, they said.

Gerardo and Melgar said that after they disappeared for other, aside by a certain "Omar" of Manila," they and their families received threats, presumably from the police. Intervention of the National Bureau of Investigation. All agents accompanied them at the meeting with reporters on Aug. 8.

Gerardo's statement, the original of which appeared to have been written on yellow pad paper, was given to reporters by Melgar. The other witness now under the witness's protection, the Inquirer learned. Along with it was a video containing the testimony he was supposed to present before the Senate investigation.

Bribed?

A close supporter of Cruz's group said Gerardo appeared to have been bribed to take around. The source said he believed Gerardo approached Cruz in the hope of getting a hefty bribe from Malacañang's public disclosure.

Gerardo's narrative also contained allegations that a top election official in Pampanga, who was also present in the White House gathering, was given P1 million, including two "unlicensed and expensive" vehicles and a "mansion" in Angeles City—all courtesy of the President.

After the canvassing of votes in the municipal level a few days later, Gerardo and the provincial election official required him and the other poll officers to bed proceed to city for further exhausting the election returns to the provincial board of canvassers.

"He says all given an envelope containing P15,000 more or less before the election returns were transmitted to the provincial board of canvassers," he said.

Harvard prof defends, rebuts alien kidnaps

Former page A1

processing of Hollywood scripts. And they hold their ground amid snickers from a public that thinks they are daft or psychotic.

They are serious, and their experiences should be taken seriously, they say, especially as large public opinion polls, according to Susan Clancy, a Harvard psychologist who interviewed dozens of self-declared abductees as part of a research project under way.

In her book "Abducted: How People Come to Believe They Were Kidnapped by Aliens," due out in October, Clancy finds echoes and outlines these testimonies, and also some research into factors that could explain their random abduction stories understandable, if not believable.

Although dreams on abduction memories, the book hints at strange additions. To explain the psychology of transhuman experiences, whether supposed abductions, conversions or divine statements.

Understanding why people believe would change a important way we look at ourselves and more about people—that is, human in general," she writes.

Sleep paralysis

Clancy's accounting for abduction memories centers with the unconscious experience called sleep paralysis. While in light, dream-rich REM (rapid eye movement) sleep, people may wake up for a few seconds and find themselves unable to move.

Psychologists sometimes refer to about a fifth of all people will have that experience at least once, and some 5 percent will be bothered in terrifying sensations like full body electrical spasms, a feeling of being crushed, or of some presence by hallucinations or intruders.

Although no one has studied this group systematically, Clancy suggests, based on her interviews, that they tend to be people who are more vivid dreamers in the paranormal, mystical sense and the possibility of transient sensations.

Pop culture

Hints to the genre abuse with wraparound text—some from? From the deep well of pop culture. Clancy argues, based on a review of the history of UFO sightings, movies and television presentations on aliens.

The first "abductees" in the United States was documented in 1953, in the movie "Invaders From Mars," she writes, such evidence of abduction followed this and other works on aliens.

Abduction narratives often have another dimension that Clancy suspects may be central to their power. They give people a way to talk about their sense of disorienting things that battle our life, and a deep sense that they are not alone in the universe.

New York Times News Service

DLI GENERICS
Exclusively Distributed by: Ayala Pharmaceutical Center Inc., 8th Floor, Ayala Ave., cor. Buendia, QC.
Less 20% discount for Senior Citizens
Suggested Retail Price: July 12, 2003 • Wakatitipid ng higit sa 60%
Analgesic/Antipyretic (Para sa lagnat, lagnat at sumpong)
DLI | Leading Brand | Savings
Anti-Bacterial (Gamot sa Bacteria)
Anti-cough (Pampa-Ubo)
Anti-Diarrhea (Para sa Pagtatae)
DLI Lagundi Plus 500mg
Quality is gained, so pinoyong mas abot!!!
Centrum | Watsons | EMILENE | Cleo Skin Solutions | Rose Pharmacy

Gullas urges BAP to 'stop fighting a lost cause'

GULLAS

By Marvin B. Castillo

LEMERY: basketball association official and Cebu Rep. Eduardo Gullas yesterday urged the basketball association of the Philippines to "stop fighting a lost cause" and "rally behind the new regime body if it wants to shoot international."

Gullas' call came as the Philippine Sports Commission yesterday gave the Philippine Basketball Association "conditional recognition" which the ouge body can use to be accepted to re the international federation (Fiba).

Gullas, who served in the BAP board during the time of former president Leo Prayer, was originally the first choice of the PSC board to be its first president.

But old age and duties in Congress made him beg off. Instead, Manuel "Manny" Mamilwan, himself also a veteran BAP and Asian Basketball Confederation (ABC) official, was elected to the top PSC post.

Gullas urged the BAP to accept its suspension from the Philippine Olympic Committee and to give the PSP all the room to perform its duty as the governing body for basketball.

Also yesterday, PSC chair Butch Ramirez and commissioner Ritchie Garcia said Filipinos cannot mind the prospect of the Philippines' decline to defend its basketball title in the Southeast Asian Games.

"What we meant in for us to be able to field a (basketball) team for the Southeast Asian Games," Garcia told the reporters. "Dahil tapos, matuda na tayo sa debut ng sport. Among lang sa basketball. Di's sayo't bar we can take it. If we have in every squad , hiti not in basketball."

"It (PSC's conditional recognition) is a tool (they can use," Garcia said, referring to the PSC for recognition which the PSP is pursuing to claim for the Philippines' defense of the cage gold in the SEAG this November.

Mamilwan drew to doing being last name by the recognition (Fiba) now requires documentation of the organization to Fiba president Carl Ching Meng-Ky.

Mamilwan also briefed the Fiba official on the circumstances behind the expulsion of the BAP from the cage body.

Dolphins battle Bombers today

PCU's Gabriel Espinas (center) will again be a marked man when the Dolphins clash with the JRU Bombers today. JUNJIE JOM

GAMES TODAY (Cuneta Astrodome)
7:30 am — UP vs. PCU (JV)
9 am — Ateneo vs. FEU (JV)
2 pm — JRU vs. PCU (JV)

THE PRESSURE is on for the Philippine Christian U Dolphins as they try to regain their championship footing against the pumped-up Jose Rizal U Bombers in the NCAA basketball tournament at 2 p.m. today at the Cuneta Astrodome.

The defending champions have struggled in their First two games in the second round of eliminations.

The Dolphins shocked a 78-72 loss against a rejuvenated San Beda Lions in the round opener. Four days later, the Dolphins had to scramble in the closing minutes to forge a 62-59 win over the St. Benilde Blazers.

Coach Yong reminding the players on that no team is a pushover," said PCU coach Jamil Bawali. "All the teams have a good coaching staff so we have to work hard every game."

The Mapua Cardinals are hoping to have learned the same lesson when they take on the Blazers at 4 p.m.

The Cardinals handily looked like the team that reigned to a 14-0 sweep of the elimination round as they battled the Cardinals in the Filoil Flying V Center in San Juan.

The Blazers meanwhile

The WORLD

Editor Lorenne B. Gloco

Saudi Arabia braces for new terror attacks

RIYADH—Saudi Arabia intensified security Tuesday around foreign compounds in Riyadh after the United States, Britain and Australia warned that terror attacks may be imminent in the wealthy oil kingdom.

Britain and Australia said on Monday their nationals were planning attacks in Saudi Arabia in the near future, a day after a US move to temporarily close embassies in the country pushed oil prices to record levels.

The spate of warnings over possible military strikes came just days into the reign of newly enthroned King Abdullah bin Abdel Aziz over the world's top oil exporter, which has been battling Islamist violence for two years.

A Saudi official who did not wish to be named told AFP that "let them issue the warnings they want, as far as we have our own procedures that we follow in order to confront and prevent any terrorist operations."

Officers, backed by military vehicles, enforced strict security measures at foreign residential compounds and the diplomatic neighborhood where most western embassies and their staff reside in Riyadh, an AFP correspondent said.

The US, British and Australian embassies are located within the heavily-protected diplomatic neighborhood.

Heavily-armed soldiers manned two checkpoints at the entrance of the May al-Diplomasi, the diplomatic neighborhood, to check vehicles and identity cards of passengers.

"Security has been heightened at the diplomatic neighborhood ... and this usually takes place after security warnings of terrorist acts," said an Arab diplomat who did not wish to be identified.

The Cordoba compound in southern Riyadh has been transformed into a bunker, with hundreds of metres of cement blocks and barbed wire protecting the residential complex.

The manager of the compound, which was the target of a terror bombing attack in May 2003, told AFP that security measures have been recently raised in and around the complex.

"We have received warnings from the British and US embassies asking us to raise security measures since Sunday," said the manager who did not wish to be identified.

He said the compound was normally largely empty due to the summer vacations during which women and children travel back home.

At Cordoba mainly, an American who works as a consultant at a Riyadh bank, told AFP that "I feel I feel scared in the compound because there are strict security measures." "But I have avoided going to crowded places since the warning from the US Embassy. I go to work with one of my Arab friends," said the US resident who did not wish to be identified.

As for Saudi residents, life seemed to be proceeding in usual around the capital where traffic was normal.

"I do not think that anything will happen, as the terrorists have been hit hard by security forces, so I do not have fears for myself or my family," said Thuri al-Zamiza, the owner of a real estate company.

On Sunday, the US Embassy in Saudi Arabia said its premises in Riyadh and two consulates elsewhere in the kingdom will be close for two days in response to an unspecified threat.

A day later, Britain and Australia—close allies of Washington—avoided less—said they had "credible reports" that nationals were in the final stages of planning attacks in Saudi Arabia.

The US mission in Riyadh resumed on July 20 that its nation could strike again in Saudi Arabia which has been rocked by a spate of bloody attacks—many of them against western targets—attributed to al-Qaeda terror militants in the past two years.

World oil prices struck fresh record high points on Monday, exceeding $28 in New York, following the security worries in Saudi, which produces about 9.5 million barrels per day and has the capacity for an additional daily quota of 1.5 million.

AFP

P.E.T. Plastic Bottle Manufacturing
GUARANTEED TO BE A HIGH-EARNING BUSINESS !

We are looking for BUSINESS PARTNER to work as exclusive sub-manufacturers on selected areas.
We will conduct FREE seminar with proper training for serious applicants on August 18, 2001 Friday at 10:00 AM
FOR REGISTRATIONS AND MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
TEL. # (02)367-7135
0915-5766649 / 0926-8676391
Look for Evelyn or Beth

BREAKTHROUGH IN CANCER CURE!
A herbal extract from Iloilo do cisco tested effective against cancer diseases at UP Institute of Biology
Contact: Sir Yun Agustin
Spy at work and among others
Cell numbers: 09208900892, 09069108008

NATIONWIDE AREA DEALERSHIP OPEN!!!
QUALITY Home & Institutional Use: Bathroom Tissue, Facial Tissue

INSTITUTIONAL

SANITARY NAPKINS

Soon available Infant Disposable Diaper!!!
Distributed by: Sobien Food Corp.
Address: ... Philippines
Tel Nos.: ...
Fax Nos.: ...
Look for Edith

2 UN officials accused of kickbacks

UNITED NATIONS—The former head of the UN oil-for-food program, Benon Sevan, was accused of hundreds of counts of receiving nearly $1.8,000 in kickbacks, and another UN official was arrested on charges of pocketing hundreds of thousands of dollars from UN contractors.

The UN-established Independent Inquiry Committee, headed by former US Federal Reserve Chair Paul Volcker, said in its third interim report that Sevan, who runs the $67 billion humanitarian program for Iraq, and shareholder Yakubov, a former UN purchasing office, should be prosecuted.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan lifted both men's diplomatic immunity and Yakubov was arrested on the orders of federal prosecutors of the US Southern District of New York.

Yakubov immediately pleaded guilty to one count conspiracy to commit wire fraud and money laundering arising from getting "several hundred thousand dollars," the federal complaint said. He was released on bail. Qatada quality phone on other manifestation of cooperation with prosecutors.

The Volcker panel, in its report, accused Yakubov of pocketing more than three $500,000 from companies not connected with the oil-for-food program. But it said he tried to collect a bribe on one contract before the program.

The report was the first to accuse UN officials of outright corruption in connection with the program.

"These are senior officers of the United Nations," fourth officials Judge Richard Goldstone, a commissioner on the panel told Reuters. "It is not on the any organization to have senior officials benefiting illegally." Annan's chief of staff, Mark Malloch Brown, told a news conference that the United Nations last month had alerted the US to notice of wrongdoing by Yakubov and was working with the Manhattan District Attorney's office on complaints against Sevan.

The Volcker report said Sevan's finances had been "precarious" before the alleged wrongdoing. Sevan has vigorously denied the charges.

The Volcker panel was also instructed by Annan to examine charges of corruption in the programs, designed to ease the impact on ordinary Iraqis of UN sanctions imposed in August 1990 after Saddam Hussein's troops invaded Kuwait.

The program began in December 1996 and ended in 2003, when the United States invaded Iraq and ousted President Saddam Hussein, who himself had skimmed off money on illegal oil sales and kickbacks, most of them outside the program.

Sevan, 67, who served in the United Nations for 40 years, has denied any wrongdoing and said in a letter to Annan on Sunday he was being made a scapegoat and that the charges were "false." He is in his native country of Cyprus.

The report said Sevan received $160,000 in stock of former UN Secretary General Boutros Ghali, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa, who served a stint of trading firm, called Mimex Middle East Investment Limited (MIEL).

The firm transferred $160,000 to the account of Fred Shaller, the brother of Boutros Ghali's wife Leia. Of the amount, Shaller then deposited in cash $144, 304 to the New York bank account of Sevan and his wife, the report said. Boutros Ghali was secretary general from 1992 to 1996 when the oil-for-food program was set up. He has been questioned by the Volcker panel but has not been accused of wrongdoing. Reuters

'Gardeners' steal $65M in Brazil

BRASILIA—Thieves tunneled into a Brazilian Central Bank branch to steal $65 million, officials said Monday. The country's biggest-ever bank heist was one of the largest in the world.

Thieves penetrated the Bance Central branch in the northeastern city of Fortaleza over the weekend after digging an 80-meter tunnel. The bank vault is underwater.

They carted out 13.5 tons in notes with out setting off alarms, police said.

"There were movement sensors in the safe and security cameras, which were not activated," police said.

Police said the thieves appeared to have made off with as least $65 million.

Banco Central said that robbers opened five containers with 50-real notes, each worth $25.50.

The robbers opened them in a nearby house where they created a fictitious gardening company, which allowed them to get rid of cash; they dug without raising suspicion, police said. The tunnel was four meters underground.

Brazil's previous record bank heist took place in 1994, when robbers made off with 47 million reais ($16 million in today's dollars) from Banespa branch in São Paulo, according to Folha Online.

The tunnel was lined in plastic and had electric lights and a floor.

Police speculated that the gang must have had about 20 members, but did not immediately say that they had questioned any suspects.

"They worked for several months," police said. "The gardening company was working since March. They had sophisticated equipment, including hydraulic positioning apparatus and engines to watch, engineering and excavation," they said.

The Brazil robbery is topped by a 1987 robbery in Knightsbridge, central London, of $13 million. AFP

GIVE A COMPETITIVE EDGE!
VERNON TAPALLA'S
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALISTS and THE WRITING INSTITUTE

new OXFORD
P9,290

IWATA TIME RECORDER
P8,800 - E-28
P15,800 - SP-800

XanLite

SPEEDPOWER
FREE SAMPLE LESSONS
www.speechpower.ph

PILOT
G-2

Swing P35,000
Sliding P45,000
Free Installation!

COPIERS

Our Lady of Guadalupe Colleges
Medical Transcription

Any other brand is just a COMPROMISE
Roof Shingles
Vinyl Soffits
Decra Stone Coated Metal Roof Tiles
ARCHI-LINE, INC.
Delivery & Installation available nationwide

WISE INVESTMENT IS...
A BUSINESS WITH HIGH PROFITABILITY THAT CAN BE SUSTAINED, NOT ONLY FOR A YEAR BUT FOR MORE THAN A DECADE!
TEL. # (032) 344-5861
Mobile phone # 0917-6258188

DENGUE kills
swingfog
THERMAL FOGGER
icon 2.5 EC
AL DG & Company, Inc.

People's Choice
SUPER BRAND
SUPER BRAND GOLD 2006
SUPER BRAND PLATINUM 2004
SUPER BRAND GOLD 2003
SUPER BRAND GOLD 2002
SUPER BRAND GOLD 2001
SUPER BRAND GOLD 2000
SUPER BRAND GOLD 1999

BL-G2-5
BL-G2-7

Philippine Exclusive Distributor
COSMOS BAZAR, INC.
PILOT CORPORATION
Tokyo, Japan

US Air Force Lt. Col. Pete Conrad, flanked by Mass Public Affairs Officer Dave Drumble, points to a radar screen which shows celebrants near the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida, Aug 5. AP/UPI

Discovery lands safely in California

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE—Discovery and its crew of seven glided safely back to Earth on Sunday, ending a startling, at times agonizing, 14-day test of space shuttle safety that was shattered by the ghosts of Columbia.

Discovery swooped through the darkness of the Mojave Desert and landed on the 61st orbit of safety at 12:11 GMT, well before a midnight. It marked the touchdown of the first shuttle scrutiny since Columbia's tragic return.

The shuttle at California came after close encounters in Cape Canaveral, Florida, prevented the shuttle from returning to its home base.

"Congratulations on a truly spectacular test flight," Mission Control said once Discovery came to a stop. "Welcome home, Steve."

"We're happy to be back and we congratulate you the whole team for a job well done," Commander Eileen Collins replied.

The hitherto dangerous ride down through the atmosphere... most anxiety ridden than normal because of what happened to Columbia two and a half years ago—went smoothly. Its problems were immediately reported by Mission Control.

Still up a day by bad weather in Florida, the shuttle neared across the Pacific and over Southern California, passing just north of Los Angeles on its way to Edwards. Haza ordered the flight path in order to skirt two hurricanes because of new public safety considerations in the wake of the Columbia disaster, which rained debris over Texas and Louisiana.

Discovery's journey, which began with a launch on July 26, spanned 23.8 orbits of Earth and 5.4 million miles. AP

We just had to wait, sub crew recalls ordeal

PETROPAVLOVSK-KAMCHATSKY, Russia—In the pitch dark, lying flat on their backs and under orders to breathe as lightly as possible, the crew waited.

They waited setting. Samotlí leaves in towel rises as water supplies dwindled and the air ripped of its life-giving oxygen and was enveloped in sickening coldness.

Where a female vessel finally found the sub, it became clear just how close they had come to death: in six hours, their oxygen would have run out. For the crew, frivolous naive stories they expressed to be hauls and related exits. Such was life.

They looked a bit bewildered when they stepped on their home base—the deep green of Kamchatka's trees and the clamor of journalists' questions and camera flashes—but only after 76 hours cooped in the hulked shipwreck, listening to their hearts and minds race.

"We understood we were trapped. We just had to wait for a decision. When they said they'll be here in two to three hours, we said fine and began to wait," said Emmanly Mikeels, an employee of the company that made the 30-28 mini-sub who was on board with the six crewmen. AP

since

YEA

OF MAKING BAN

For the 154 years of letting us deposit a smile on your face, allowing us to fund your dr peace of mind... we, at BPI, would like to thank you one hundred fifty-four-fold.

Thank you for taking us this far, and for

Nestlé

Pasko Na, Pasko Now!

₱50Million

Bili na ng kahit anong 3 participating NESTLÉ products para pwedeng sumali at manalo ng All-In-One Grand Prize Package na House & Lot + Isuzu Crosswind + ₱500,000 Cash!

1 8 5 1

54

A R S

NKING HISTORY

eams and invest in your
Starting with these...

Visit any BPI, BPI Family Savings Bank branch or Express Banking Center.
For more information, call 89-100 or log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
154 years of making banking history

Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Maximum Deposit Insurance for Each Depositor P500,000

llowing us to take you further.

NAGASAKI A-BOMBING
Directly over the Peace Statue (upper photo), the symbolic statue in Nagasaki world peace, at the 60th anniversary of the atomic bombing in Nagasaki, Japan, Aug 9. Lower photo shows fractured visage of the Buddha sitting on a hill above a razed valley in Nagasaki in this Sept. 24, 1945 file picture.

WORLDBRIEFS

Saddam trial in 2 months

BAGHDAD — Saddam Hussein will go on trial within two months on charges related to a massacre killing of Shi'ite Muslim villagers in the village of Dujail in 1982, an Iraqi judge said on Monday. "The Dujail case was referred to the criminal court [on] Sunday evening, 4 days after his trial and within 45 to 60 days we will see the first session," investigating judge Munir Hadad told Arabic satellite television channel Al-Arabiya. It concluded, Saddam could face the death penalty. (Reuters)

Burma suspects charged

LONDON — Three suspects in the failed July 21 London bombings were formally charged with attempted murder on Monday. The suspects, all members of Britain's ethnic minority Somali community, were also charged with possessing explosives with intent to endanger life. Hamdi Isak, Ismail Abdurahman, 23, and Muktar Said Ibrahim, 21, were remanded in custody until Sept. 14 on charges of attempted murder, conspiracy to murder, possessing or making explosives and conspiracy to use explosives on July 21. They have the right to appeal a conviction. (AP)

N. Korea food shortages

SEOUL — North Korea faces a serious food shortage because the country probably won't meet the appropriations ministry's target for this year, the World Food Program warned Tuesday. "We sense in that we have a crisis and we've got to do something. The international community is prepared and possible resources so that we can do our work," said James T. Morris, executive director of the UN agency. North Korea has relied on foreign aid to feed its 23 million people since disclosing in the mid-1990s that its government-run farming system had collapsed. A shortfall is believed to have killed some 2 million people. The WFP tries to feed about 6.5 million North Koreans — more than a quarter of the population. (AP)

Ipasok ang tatlong NESTLE labels sa isang envelope at ilagay ang promo title (NESTLE Pasko Sa, Pasko Nwo), inyong pangalan, address, contact numbers, at pirmahan. Ibulog ang entries na drop boxes sa mga supermarkets, drug stores, groceries at palengke stalls.

ISSN 0116-2442 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER VOL. XXVI, NO. 243

OPINION

Text or post your feedback to opinion@inquirer.com.ph or letters@inquirer.com.ph

Publisher Isaac Tarriela
Editor-in-Chief Letty Jimena Magsanoc
Managing Editor Jose Ma. D. Nolasco
Associate Editors Ramon S. Casiple
Associate Editor Antonio T. Carpio Jr. / Chief News Editor Nestor B. Burgos
Opinion Editor Lorie V. Aves
Assistant Editor Francisco B. Rodriguez Jr.
City Editor Dino Lim
Assistant Editor Jose V. Sandoval Jr.
Editorial Consultant Eleanor Dionisio
Office Manager for Circulation Edna M. Gabriel
Art & Design Director Lester A. Villamor

Board of Trustees Maria P. Perez
President Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing Rosario R. Romero
Senior Vice President for Corporate Services David R. Sicam
Vice President Felipe H. Duarte
Assistant Vice President Alicia P. Lacsamana

All rights reserved. Except as provided by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any manner or by any means without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Tangled web

A TANGLED web of charges, countercharges, witnesses and evasive witnesses is all the country has to show for all the efforts of its leaders. No institution has emerged unscathed and unsullied. The administration is pressuring—and demolishing—witnesses with as much viciousness and enthusiasm as the opposition, while the Catholic Church, the military, the police, media and civil society have all gotten into the act, in one way or another. Everyone has a witness, and everybody else has found a way to destroy that witness.

EDITORIAL

It is not our role to play prosecutor for either side, but it is our responsibility to point out the depths of irresponsibility and ruthlessness our major political players have sunk into. One side presents testimony, only for that person to retract his story or modify it to the extent that his testimony becomes hopelessly muddled. Large sums of cash are just some of the considerations that are allegedly dangled. The use of police power, legal threats and personal appeals add to a general picture of power being used for the sake of power, and not in the search for the truth or the greater good. What is happening now serves as an indictment of the low regard in which the major players hold the public. Innuendo and slander are replacing facts; demolishing—and not building up—a case is the name of the game.

The public knows that when a witness learns any more, begging the forgiveness of the First Family, the team weren't inspired by a sudden call to greatness, but more likely by a promise of cash to make crying worthwhile. The public also knows that when a witness with a large number of police officers hovering in the background stops himself to demolish the testimony of another witness, that demolition is inspired as much by fear of the policemen's guns as it is by a desire to tell the truth. The truth, such as it is, is only this: that both sides regard it as something that can be changed and modified at will.

The personal nature of the charges and countercharges is increasingly reflected in the persons perceived to be behind them. There is the President, with her loyal lieutenants moving heaven and earth to demolish hostile testimony. There is the opposition, moving with equal resolve to keep producing witnesses who will testify at least until new witnesses can be produced. On a certain level, it is perhaps more understandable to us that the President and her people, moving with such determination, since the life of the administration is on the line. It is less understandable to see opposition leaders virtually abandoning all pretense to either objectivity or statesmanship.

Sen. Rodolfo Lacson has warned that if President Macapagal-Arroyo wants to make this a personal match, he would gladly accommodate her. After being accused of being the main mobilizer of witnesses against the President, Lacson has vowed to redouble his efforts to produce damaging witnesses.

The problem is that Lacson is a senator, and belongs to a body that everyone expects to hear the charges leveled against the President. We have heard time and again that an impeachment is a political process, that it isn't expected to be composed of completely impartial individuals, but neither is it expected to be a body devoid of even the appearance of having an open mind.

Public opinion has spoken out strongly in favor of the impeachment process. While some senators have called for senators who have closely supervised a position unfavorable to the President to inhibit themselves, this call has not been taken up by the majority. The public knows better than to expect a fair hearing if the administration coalition the likes of the Estradas, Arellano and son, for example. Their hostile questioning will be par for the course, their vote, a foregone conclusion. But even the Estrada have isolated the urge to volunteer to do the job of the House of Representatives, which is, if it resists the temptation to throw out the impeachment complaint, to prosecute the case before the Senate. There is partisanship, and there is such a thing as crossing the line. Lacson has unfolded both.

This week should see the debate over the complaints in the House hearing up. It should also mark the start of a period of preparation and reflection in the Senate. Few institutions get a second chance to prove themselves capable of living up to the highest, ideal of the lowest, expectations of the public. The Senate, unless denied the opportunity by the House, will have that chance.

How to create a million more legal jobs

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

WOULD you believe that President Macapagal-Arroyo's interviewing club is a feature hosting group? That's the name she assigned to any day she's got members' guests and, assuming a previous host, ably" is the wrong guess, it takes a while to catch on. But Pasay Regional Trial Court Judge Edward Hogdson, GMA's anti-jueteng czar, has adopted it as his triumph with jueteng, that he says exists in every province, city and municipality that are jueteng-free. And if the results in Hogdson's area of jurisdiction are any indication, other areas can do it, too. All that is needed is the will to stop.

That is why the President chose Hogdson, who is then chief of the League of City Mayors, to be her main jueteng czar. He doesn't like the moniker, but, seeing that the last Bicolano czar died by assassin's bullet, was murdered by the Bicolano Mr. Big-sides, he doesn't have any police muscle, just him and a few others tasked with disseminating a huge rumbling misery that is now in the hands and hope. So instead of unpopular muscle, he is going to use "friendly persuasion" on his fellow mayors. Among names survive in my place if the mayor doesn't wish it, he said. Which is an indirect admission that many mayors are involved in the numbers game.

So, instead of arresting jueteng lords and their thousands of bahot and collaborator (who will supplement the government that has to feed and build more jails for them), Hogdson will persuade his fellow mayors to finally stop jueteng in their localities because that is the right thing to do. In fact, that is the first of the three recommendations he will submit to the President next week. The second is to find alternative livelihoods for the thousands of cobradores and tukos who will be rendered jobless by the end of jueteng. Hogdson said

Ramos' shock formula

ANALYSIS

Armando Doronila

WITH A PERSISTENT characteristic of the man, former President Fidel Ramos has submitted the argument that reviving the 1987 Constitution alongside the impeachment proceedings against President Macapagal-Arroyo could put congress into limbo on the time and energy of Congress.

Disagreeing have been expressed that Congress would be overloaded with two controversial impeachment issues on the one hand

OUR LADY OF FATIMA UNIVERSITY
&
MEDSeribe
Medical Transcription
INDEPENDENT TRAINING PROGRAM
Be a medical transcriptionist in 3-6 months!
Affordable Fees. Flexible Payment Schemes.
Visit us at:
Room 108 San Vicente Building, 120 McArthur Highway Valenzuela City, Metro Manila
Tel: 277 0093
e-mail: info@medscribeasia.com • registrar@fatima.edu.ph
website: www.fatima.edu.ph

Tainted Comelec officials

LETTERS

ATAL Cruz, in his July 29 column, made reference to an opinion of "a Comelec old-timer" who supposedly said time-bar call for the computation of all the Comelec commissioners is an "unfair one," since only "Gerry" figured in the issues, not the "other commissioners."

We the record, the "other commissioners" are keenly aware, not because of the tapes, but on account of their direct participation in the highly illegal and immoral proceedings of the automated counting machines for the May 2004 elections.

As early as September 2004, Bitoconcerned Benny Sinsuat-Angan initiated a criminal complaint with the Ombudsman against those commissioners for violations of the Anti-Wiretapping Law, the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees and the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

Eight months earlier, that is, on July 12, 2004, the Supreme Court, in G.R. No. 159139, already advised the Ombudsman "to determine the criminal liability, if any, of the public officials [and conspiring private individuals, if any], involved..."

Clearly, therefore, all cases should be done now in for the Ombudsman to wake up from a long slumber and fully effect the decision of the high court. It is unfortunate that an all-out, spontaneous outcries of an anonymous "Comelec old-timer" should appear in the widely read columnist's [illegible].

—SIMEON C. CAPULONG JR.,
executive director,
National Voters League

There was no illegal logging in UPLB

will avoid like to clarify the article "Illegal logging case vs 69 UP heat endorsed." (PDI, 8/1/05)

The headline referred to "illegal logging," but the article itself mentioned the cutting of only "two bamboo trees." Two bamboo trees do not constitute commercial-scale cutting, so "log-ging" would imply. We think it is irresponsible journalism to sensationalize the simple act of cutting two unclean infested trees for public safety reasons. It is utterly disappointing and grossly unfair that a leading newspaper should allow this blunder, thus causing the UPLB, a well-known recipient of environmental and forest conservation here and abroad, to tread light.

As for the indictments of the filing of criminal and administrative charges against us, we have yet to receive formal communication from the Office of the Environment Ombudsman. I will submit myself to an investigation—not in the bid of public opinion, where ingnorant people usually take issues that are not stated examination in the legal arena—as this is the only venue I can be heard.

It is unfortunate that, despite repeated explanations by UPLB officials regarding the facts surrounding the tree-cutting case, there is make-out bat trial, Media Bureau has refused to understand them. This is evident in the claim of this article on his controversy "in the following issues of the Inquirer: July 29 and Sept. 27, 2004, and June 16, 2005] which have remained, rarely portrayed we as having pecuniary motives for approving the cutting of the trees. He may have been misinformed or misled by his sources, but one does not have to be a journalist to know that it is elementary for news reporters to investigate both sides of the issue and not take the easy way out by resorting to such self-exculpating statements as "Mr. ___ could not be reached for comment."

Am I to be blamed for being inaccessible in some news reporters—on attitude I probably developed after unbelievable superiorities with their erroneous reportage and subversional claim? But if reporters are indeed dedicated to their craft, they would get information from other credible sources for a more balanced reporting.

Thank you for giving me a chance to air my side on this matter.

—WILFREDO D. BAYLE,
chancellor,
University of the Philippines
Los Baños

WILF sorry a dead editor made an error in writing the headline. It should have read: "Illegal cutting case vs UPLB head endorsed."—Ed.

A challenge to presidential wannabes

THE TWO-PARTY presidential system of our 1935 Constitution inspired in our 1986 Constitution is doomed in the multi-party parliamentary structure of our 1986 Constitution. The numerous and random cross-selected issues, many peculiar to places and moods, presidential wannabes are all clamoring for power shut-lap in government into inspired fidelity. Our elections have degenerated into popularity contests. We must, for urgent national reasons, search for a parliamentary mindset that will address and hear—not political, social and economic problems and that seeks out to face the realities and challenges of a fiercely competitive global economy.

With over 334 parliamentary governments worldwide, we have to search for a model that will enhance our chances for success. The Philippine Congress—both the House and the Senate—is manifested by our Constitution. Barring the personal presidential ambitions of many politicians, of the three modes of amending the Constitution, the No. 1 choice recommended by the Constitutional Itself is through the Congress assembly (Art. XVII, Section 1, Paragraph 1), this amendment made by such a body shall also be ratified by the people in a limited election called for the purpose.

If the major parliaments worldwide, such as the United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, France and Singapore, Sweden's unicameral parliament, which is elected for a four-year term through proportional representation, derives close study because of its stability. Besides, the system allows for a broad participation of political parties; since 1201, five of the seven major political parties had been represented in Sweden's Parliament. During the six to 1998-2002, seven political parties shared the 349-parliamentary seats. This power sharing connects political parties will give women and votes to our consolidated groups, such as Gabriela and the Muslim Party of the Philippines, issue-oriented blocs and our Muslim brothers can participate in government [prohibited their hostility organize themselves into political parties] where even a minority secretary, Human Even Sole or Muslim, by virtue of the proportional process, can have chosen at prime ministry, a process unheard of in our present system.

A parliamentary government like Sweden's will unite and strengthen us to face the fierce challenges of a global economy, that is, only if our people are willing to [illegible] think of our country first before their personal ambitions. Are our leaders and people ready for this challenge?

—HECTOR SEZAR,
executive director,
Social Policy Advocacy,
11 Charleyville St., White Plains, QC

Exercise restraint even if system is weak

THERE is a tendency on the column of former Justice Isagani Cruz, which was called "The sovereign will of the people." (PDI, 7/17/05) article I respect his opinion on the matter of the President's resignation because the "fair for-bristol her right to her personal position," may I say that it is unfair, unjust and premature, especially because it comes from a former justice of the Supreme Court, a man of law and a respected jurist. Justice Cruz, I believe, in his very [illegible] already shows his bias and a very deciding to have no reflection whatsoever will of the people even if this question will be submitted it a nationwide survey—repeat, nationwide—not only Metro Manila.

I wish to inform Justice Cruz that we, citizens of between voters, were caught by our government [the executive, legislative and judicial branches] to follow the process of law and never to take the law into our hands. Isagani Cruz, you were there, in fact, nominated ourselves to follow the law under any circumstances.

Engulfing our nation today is the controversial, if not the high-tended, controversies allegedly between the President and a Comelec official. The controversy involved the overwhelming of the President, hence the call from some sectors for her immediate resignation, or for the establishment of a transition government, or for the installation of a junta, or even for a revolution, etc.

Isn't it, Justice Cruz, that for a man of law, due process and the rule of law must never be compromised? As lawyer-law said time and again that she will not resign and will opt for impeachment. You sense that the impeachment process at the moment is a [illegible] because it will be difficult to [illegible] the numbers in both legislative chambers. That is all—and we will not resort to "engaging us to the street" to use our justice system is corruptible and some people implementing the system (past and present) are corrupt, nor, the election, must now stop following it, and resort to unconstitutional ways? Let us remind Justice Cruz that we, the citizens of between citizens, are in the most difficult position when a court is awaiting the decision of a judge in our criminal cases. Still, whatever the decision of the judge, we respect it and accept it with humility, despite the pain and anguish it may cause us.

I appeal to all sectors to exercise restraint and, as dictated in unity our Constitution, never to take the law into our hands. Let us respect the will of the majority of our people. We pray, all, you do.

—RAUL BERNAS,
founding chair,
Volunteers Against Crime
and Corruption (VACC), 9 Bonifacio Hills,
Avila Cores St., Makati City

InqBox
Question of the Week
Do you think that some witnesses who planned to testify in the jueteng investigations are being paid off or are being threatened to keep quiet?
Send your answers to: [illegible]
Buy an inquirer box message/cityimessage.
Text your answers to: [illegible]
Terms & conditions apply.

Across the NATION

DENR allows log transport in Quezon

OBSTRUCTION
Workers try to remove a Philippine Rabbit bus that blocked traffic on the North Expressway after it fell on its side on the expressway south slippery by rain.

LUCENA CITY—Logs, charcoal and other finished forest wood products can now be transported out of Aurora and Quezon provinces, Environment Secretary Michael Defensor said in a memorandum dated Aug. 2.

However, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources declared made it clear that the documents to be issued by the DENR regional office in connection with the removal and movement of logs and wood products "shall not in any way be construed as lifting of the logging ban" in the two provinces.

"The logging ban is [for] permanent duration meant to have force and effect," Defensor said.

He said the implementation of his order, including the authorized disposition and transport of wood products, will also be effective for 24 days to coincide the duration of the moratorium.

The memorandum was titled "Disaster Preparedness in the Forthcoming Typhoon Season in the Provinces of Aurora and Quezon."

Defensor explained that in making the announcement, they took into consideration various appeals, particularly from fisherfolked families, who earlier asked the DENR to remove the dragnet in the area covered by the approaching typhoon season to avoid the repeat of last year's disaster.

In December last year, after four successive typhoons—three to 1,000 people died in Albay (Reuters) and landslides and destroyed millions of pesos worth of property in Quezon and Aurora.

Great volumes of debris logs still litter riverbanks, plains and coastal areas, awaiting retrieval. But aside the log ban, local officials and environmentalists, meanwhile, are alleging rather and use the logs, fearful of government prosecution in the absence of an order from the DENR.

To survive, voluntary victims made charcoal from logs and branches of drifted logs.

However, due to the CENR's imposed transport restrictions on all forest products, the charcoal makers were left out in the cold.

Based on the inventory of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office in Real, Quezon has been accumulated 147,324 cubic of wood of drifted had been stored for by Claro Cortes. By Ma T. Muñoz I.G., PIO Reddiver Laura Bayona

The Ideal Telephone System
with Intercom Features for Home & Office
FOR ONLY P21,000
PANASONIC
HEADSTART
Authorized National Panasonic Dealer & Service Center

Trade network seeks release of bishop's brod

By Nestor F Burgos Jr.
Philippine Bureau

BANGALORE—A network of businessmen in Asia has called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to order the release of Antero Capulla who was arrested last week for allegedly being part of a group of Abu Sayyaf's Asian Militia robots who burned pieces of construction equipment in Gumbal town, Bulacan.

In a petition letter dated Aug 7, the Asia Free Trade Forum Inc. (AFTF) said they are "gravely concerned" with the Aug. 3 arrest of Capulla, younger brother of Davao Archbishop Fernando Capulla and manager of the Brazil Fair Trade Center (BFTC).

The AFTF is composed of fair trade organizations in India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Ghana and the Philippines.

These organizations help provide livelihood to farmers and people's organizations by buying products high-

in than the prevailing price if to export to Europe and other markets.

"None of the witnesses for the complainant in the case filed against Capulla has identified him by name or by description in their affidavits. In fact, our employees Inc. sworn and declared for his immediate release from detention," said the statement signed by AFTF chairman Claribel Javed.

Javed pointed out that Capulla has worked for the PFTC for 11 years and has managed the organization for the last four years.

Bulacan state university shuts campus paper, sacks writers

CITY OF MALOLOS—Officials of the Bulacan State University last week ordered the closure of the office of the school's 32-year-old publication, Bayanihan, after it released a lampoon issue that has irked officials.

Hernie delos Cruz, managing editor of the Bayanihan, said "material rule" has taken over the university as school officials wanted to curtail press freedom through the paper's closure on Friday.

The University's staff members called the order "unfair" and a "threat" to campus press freedom.

School side

But Dr. Ramon Pimentel, BSU president, said the order was not meant to kill freedom of the press on the campus but was the school's way to stop the paper from putting the institution and its officials on bad light.

Pimentel revealed the Bayanihan's staff members violating the paper's "responsibility in effecting undersocially the proclamation of the university and its responsible officers."

In a memorandum last week, he ordered the editorial staff to "stop acting and spreading in alleged ill-flows and members" of the Bayanihan.

Dr. Oneda Bilano, presidential assistant on external and international affairs of the BSU and the first editor-in-chief of the Bayanihan in 1973, said the editorial board was expelled without its members undergoing an editorial examination required by the university.

Pimentel asked the staff members to stop using the paper's office and ordered them to surrender to the university all furniture, equipment, supplies and materials under their custody.

CEGP reaction

The College Edi-

tors Guild of the Philippines, the umbrella organization of campus papers in the country, on Monday condemned BSU officials for dismissing the editorial staff of the Bayanihan and for ordering its temporary closure.

Jose Conde, CEGP national president, said the closure came after the paper exposed alleged anomalies in the state-owned university and urged students to defy its censorship threat.

The Bayanihan's April issue carried a lampoon, titled "Bad Boys II," on Pimentel and Palanca Campus Hill acting vice president for student affairs and services.

At the back cover, the issue ran a satire of Pimentel, Campos and another school official who were featured in the "Impeachables."

Carmelito Reyes ordered reporters from Timothy Orejon, PDI Central Luzon Desk

"STARTING YOUR OWN BUSINESS?
OR GROWING THE BUSINESS YOU HAVE?"

Join this one-day SEMINAR ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP to be conducted by LEADING EDGE FORUM FOR EXCELLENCE on Thursday, August 25, 2005 at the U.P. Hotel, Diliman, Q.C. Learn from experts who will share their experiences, knowledge and expertise with you:

- "Starting and Growing Your Own Business"—Mr. Danilo V. Fajardo, President of DVF Dairy Farms. He will discuss in detail how he started and grew his dairy business, and the principles derived from his experiences and observations.
- "Choosing the Right Franchise"—Mr. Danilo C. Pineda, General Manager, Tribum Knowledge Center, former Commercial Attaché and Author/Writer. He will discuss franchising as a proven concept of growing your business.
- "Why Franchisees Succeed"—Mr. Soonie 'Shifter' Layle, Business Development Officer of San Miguel Purefoods. Mr. Layle will talk about the famous Dunkin's Donuts like Franchise and exposure on the qualities and practices that make franchisees reap the rewards of success, and that other business owners can apply in their enterprises.
- "Sourcing Funding for Start-ups and Expanding Businesses"—Ms. Katrina D. Sanvictores, SME Trade Finance Head, Export Bank. Ms. Sanvictores will discuss how business start-ups can source funds and how business owners looking to expand their operations to do, but potentials can get funding. Her discussion includes what banks and other financial institutions look for in processing and approving loans or financing ventures.
- "Preparing Your Winning Business Plan"—Mr. Pineda will discuss how to prepare and write winning Business Plans intended to attract investors and venture partners and convincing finance institutions to help fund business projects, whether start-ups or expansions.

PLUS: You will get a valuable resource CD with templates for business plans, listing of available franchises, dozens of valuable techniques and tips for beginning and established entrepreneurs, and many others in addition to the hand-outs of the speakers' Power Point presentations.

Who Should Attend?

- Small and medium enterprise owners looking for new opportunities and who wish to network with other businessmen, or who want to pick up new ideas to expand their business.
- OFW returnees and their spouses who want to put up a business of their own to augment their income and to prepare for their eventual re-integration into the local economy.
- Housewives, teachers, and young college graduates looking for investment and business opportunities with minimal investment.
- Retirees, employees, and executives with accumulated savings and considering investment opportunities that will earn them much more than the interest earned by their money in the bank.
- Professionals contemplating to start their own business while still employed or while practicing their profession.

Date: Thursday, August 25, 2005
Venue: UP Hotel, Pook Ilmas Shana, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City

Seminar fee is ₱2,500/participant inclusive of free handouts and materials, lunch and two (2) snacks. Early bird registrants (15 days before the seminar) get a 10% discount. Couples and two or more participants registering from the same organization get also a 10% discount. Kindly slip this ad as your reminder for the Entrepreneurship Seminar. Thank you.

LEADING EDGE FORUM
FOR EXCELLENCE, INC.

Tel. No. 921-5084 CP: 0919-228-6777 / 0919-228-6788; 0919-789-4379
Email Address: lefie@pldtdsl.net; lefiexc@yahoo.com

N. Vizcaya operators say 'jueteng' back in towns

SOLANO, Nueva Vizcaya — "Jueteng" has made a comeback in several towns in this province, as operators are now taking advantage of the "better climate," a police source said on Tuesday.

Quoting a local illegal gambling operator, the source said operations resumed after the "Jueteng-gate" controversy, which has linked President Macapagal-Arroyo and her family members to alleged payoffs, has cooled down.

"Lookouts (men in various parts of Cagayan Valley) have been given a go signal to resume," said the police official in Filipino.

The source, however, declined to say who gave the nod.

Jueteng operations have followed an on-and-off pattern in the past months, but stopped when the Senate started its investigation two months ago.

The Solano source said Jueteng operations have resumed in Aug. 7.

He said reports indicated that jueteng operations also resumed in several towns in Isabela, Cagayan and Quirino and Santiago City last month.

"Tuluyan na bang ayaw ang tulisan? (Is senate is it only Nueva Vizcaya that is not going to have it)," the source said.

On Monday night, the winning combination for the day's draw at one in this town was 32-21. Collection rate also went unknown, Sunday to Tuesday morning.

When sought for comment, Senator Sen. Robert Shiapcoco, Nueva Vizcaya police director, referred the inquiries to Supt. James Abello, deputy provincial director.

Abello, however, said the expected low collection may have been those of the government-run lottery.

"Lolo 'yan pero (That's lotto, my friend)," Abello said in a text message sent to this reporter.

Solano Mayor Santiago Balano said he has received a resolution within the municipal council... to lessen the devastating effects of the illegal gambling in his town.

In Cagayan, Board Member Hermann Aguinaldo announced in a privilege speech the resumption of jueteng operations in the province.

Aguinaldo said Cabbo asked the board to do something to stop jueteng "as it threatens the peace especially during this time of crisis."

He said "if the police chief in Aparri can immediately stop the illegal gambling in his town, [...]

"We can rehabilitate a drug addict, but we cannot do it with gamblers who are attracted to the hope that they win," he said.

"I propose that we immediately create a task force which is dedicated to protect our people from jueteng operators who enjoy coverage in the mercy of the press," Aguinaldo said. — Melvin Gascon with reports from Antonieta Cortez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Negros Oriental draws big plans for tourism

By Rudy G. Miranda
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY — The Oriental Negros provincial government has decided to take the lead in investing in the province's tourism sector by developing resources at a 54-hectare hotel and commercial complex.

The project will complement the rehabilitation of the Silliman University-run Silliman Beach Resort, which the provincial government has started to build last May.

Gov. George P. Arnaiz said the two projects, totaling at least P100 million, will be financed by a P100 million loan from the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), and the remaining amount will be shouldered by the local government of Oriental Negros.

Arnaiz said the original plan of the provincial government did not include the hotel but when realized later the need for such a facility especially with the fast-growing number of tourists visiting the province.

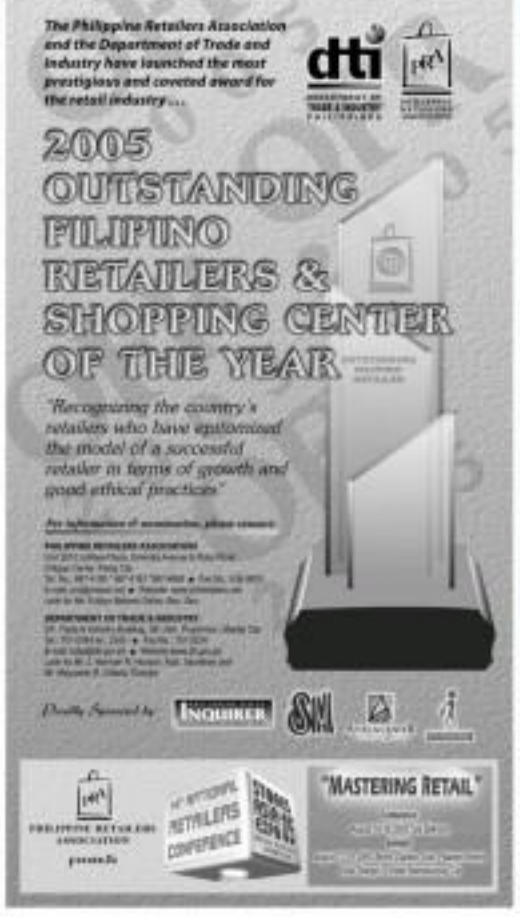
"Even today, which is supposed to be a non-working holiday, our hotels here are fully booked," Arnaiz said.

The governor added once the reconstruction center is in operation, she said he hoped a consortium will be formed to manage the facility "to avoid any conflict of interest."

"Ang gusto ko (What I want) is that the province will benefit from the project and not the private sector," Arnaiz said.

The governor also believed that in the face of recession today, the government should expand its outlay to push up economic activities.

The project, he added, is also meant to encourage the private sector to invest in the local tourism industry. Arnaiz said with a modern convention center, the province and the province would fill the more become attractive to visitors.



Absence of DILG records puts existence of town in doubt

BASILOCOS — The Department of Interior and Local Government has no record of or a town called Ilocos Norte.

Dito Van O, Basilocos Municipal Administrator, said he had received a letter from the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) asking for documents that would prove the existence of the town.

"I have never heard of Ilocos Norte! I'm from the Ilocos Norte Administrative Region was formed in 1987], and we don't have any records about it," she said.

Dito said Basilocos was created by virtue of Republic Act 4695, the law that created the former Ilocos Province cluster to form a smaller Ilocos Norte, and the provinces of Batanes, Ilocos Sur and Abra.

Those provinces, together with Ilocos Norte and Abra, were created by Republic Act 4695, the law that created the former Ilocos Province cluster to form a smaller Ilocos Norte, and the provinces of Batanes, Ilocos Sur and Abra.

Dito said Basilocos was created by virtue of

INQUIRER Northern Luzon
Editor Joe Gonduyen
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

Mission: Protect the Calayan rail

By Hector Burgos Jr.

A YEAR after gaining international acclaim for discovering a new bird species at the Babuyan group of islands in Cagayan, wildlife biologist Carmela Espanola has embarked on the same daunting task of protecting the creatures.

Espanola, 28, is leading a group that will assess the threats faced by the Calayan rail (Gallirallus calayanensis) and conduct an education campaign in schools and barangay communities, and workshops with local governments, non-government organizations and others in efforts to help in drawing a conservation plan.

A report of the research results will be submitted to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources within the month and made available to the scientific community.

The project, which starts this month and ends on October 2006, is funded by a $12,500 (P690,875) grant from the BP Conservation Programme (BPCP), a joint undertaking of BirdLife Partnership, Wildlife Conservation Society, Birdlife International, Fauna and Flora International, and Conservation International.

The grant was among the 26 financial packages given to conservation groups by the BPCP in Asia, 25 in the Southeast Asian region and 1 from the Americas (The mentions India in Washington D.C.).

Espanola said the assistance acquired for her group to continue its conservation work in Calayan, one of the islands comprising Babuyan in the northern tip of the archipelago, which reportedly was the Calayan rail.

Because of its small home range population, the Calayan rail may be classified as "vulnerable" under the international threat in the Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) "red list" a roster of species of concern.

THE CALAYAN rail or "puling" to islanders in the Babuyan group.

'There is a part in all of us that is fascinated with flight, in the ability to soar to great heights'

Discovery

Espanola and her team of Filipino and British researchers became the toast of the international media community last year for discovering the new rail species.

The bird has bright red beak and legs, and is almost flightless. It is only found in Calayan.

A biology graduate from the University of the Philippines in Los Baños (UPLB) in Batong Espanola was part of a nine-member team led by British biologist Genevieve Hazell and conservationist Carl Oliver on their undertook the nine-month research on the island.

The team included British local consultant Desmond Allen, Filipino researchers Rey Ibarguen, Mark Reyes, Juan Carlos Gonzales and Jaime Bayle Jr.

The expedition was considered the first exploration on the island after the research done by ornithologist H.C. McGregor 100 years ago. "We were expecting a more diverse bird record because it hasn't been explored for a long time. But we got Aurora and on top of all that, a new species," said Espanola.

And "finds," that was part of the team assigned to count birds, the number of species and their abundance on the island. The other teams involved conservation, reptiles and amphibians.

Lost watch

"It was because I lost my watch," said Espanola, recounting how she discovered the Calayan rail on May 11 last year.

On the night of May 10 last year, she lost her wristwatch while wandering their equipment in the camp to protect them from the rain. The next day, she set out for their daily routine. But because she was unaware of the time, she walked to the site for hours.

When she heard an unfamiliar call, she immediately prepared her camera, binoculars and recorder. But she vanished to see four birds emerge from the bushes, three times more, the initial telltale hints, circulated to be noticed.

After the birds passed by, she took notes of their distinct features, she back of her mind was the thought that the unidentified species belonged to a new species, but dismissed it because "it was so unbelievable."

She tried to calm herself by thinking that what she saw could have been migratory birds or maybe an Philippine birds.

Shots of joy

When she went back to camp, she immediately shared her experience with the other members. After, she said, started looking pictures on the bird's features.

After Allen had listened to the recording, he said the species was "totally new," eliciting shouts of joy from the team.

"I felt like exploding," said Espanola.

Despite the excitement of the discovery, the team had to stay on the island for 10 more days to finish their research.

When they returned to Manila, they spent hours in a museum examining the specie and comparing it with other rail species. They checked books and papers that were sent via mail experts until there was no doubt that the bird was a new species.

Espanola said she felt blessed with the discovery. "God has been very kind to me to let me experience this. I feel so pure all along," she said. It also made her more confident of her skills in doing her work.

But most of all, she said, the discovery was a victory for volunteers like the members of her team.

Mariadelrosa is a student under the graduated from college in 1998 and volunteered in the Philippine Endemic Species Conservation Project (PESCP) in Antipolo. She also spent a year as a volunteer teacher in the UP's Los ng Bibo (taught in Iloko).

Animal lover

The experience affirmed her commitment to conservation efforts, she said.

Espanola said she could not see herself doing any other work because she has always been with animals, especially birds, since she was a girl.

The youngest of five siblings, she grew up with stories about native animals told by her father Pablo, whom she calls "a child of the forest." She was amazed with the stories and would always visit Don Enrique Ramos' bird zoo finds.

At first, Espanola said she wanted to be a doctor but changed her mind because she became frustrated when her pet animals died. She grew up with pet dogs, cats and chickens in their house. She was also the one who cropped her playmates' ears having animals.

One of her happiest times was when her parents, both biology members of the DPU and her siblings stayed inside the fully campus in Bling northern Manila.

"I had a burst for myself," she said. She would often go there to find siblings and classmates' pets and monitor lizards, and would directly take it brought to her cats.

Espanola said she was fascinated by birds due to their color and melodious calls that sounded "like a song."

"There is also a part in all of us that is fascinated with flight, in the ability to soar to great heights," she said.

But following her heart has also been difficult for Espanola. Volunteers depend only on allowances they receive, which come mostly from nonprofit organizations.

"There were times I wanted to quit, but this is my passion and I can't imagine myself working in an office," Espanola said.

She is thankful that her family has been supportive. "You've been to places out we only dreamt of but we could see them through you," her father would always tell her.

Espanola is pursuing a master's degree in wildlife studies at the UP at Los Baños (Laguna).

She stressed the importance of the Babuyan islands as a place where migratory birds stop and feed during their southward journey. There should be a collaborative effort among NGOs, local governments, the academe and the community to protect these islands, she said.

"We must close to the people that conservation efforts are essential and it can work," she said.

CARMELA Espanola (second, from right), discoverer of the "vulnerable" bird species in Calayan, rejoices with the members at their base camp. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FOR ALL YOUR AUTO REPAIR AND SERVICE NEEDS...

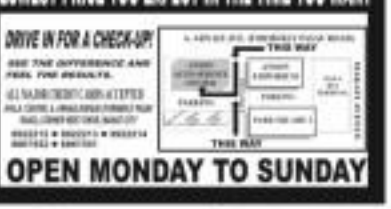
NAME IT! WE'VE GOT IT!

Anson Auto Service Center

LOWEST PRICE YOU EXPECT IN THE TIVE YOU WANT

DRIVE IN FOR A CHECK-UP!

SEE THE DIFFERENCE AND FEEL THE RESULTS.



OPEN MONDAY TO SUNDAY

What separates the Original Audi Specialist from an apprentice.

FREE COMPUTERIZED DIAGNOSTIC CHECK-UP AUG. 8-31, 2005

Only from: Auto Prominence Corporation
The Sole and Exclusive Philippine Registered Distributor

QC school suspends classes

By DJ Yap

IN HOPES of stamping out dengue which has claimed the lives of three pupils, Bagong Pag-asa Elementary School has suspended classes for the week in grades seven to elementary operations and hired boys to campaign.

School principal Lourdes Abalos said worried parents had requested the one-week suspension out of fear that their children might contract the mosquito-borne illness in school.

"Three of the eight children who had died from dengue in Barangay Bagong Pag-asa since June were pupils of BPES, including 8-year-old Lailyn Talores, who succumbed to the disease on Aug. 1.

Since June the barangay has recorded almost 80 dengue victims, most of whom were in Addition Hills, a squatter community, barangay administrator Ruby Bajarias said.

City health officials, however, played the number of confirmed dengue cases in the barangays at not more than 40, from January to July.

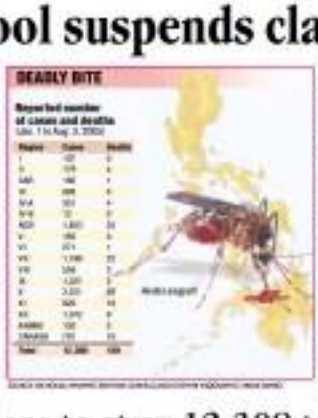
Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. said Friday that neglect of surroundings by San Roque residents contributed to the rise in dengue cases in the area.

Belmonte noted that some houses in San Roque were empty, which later became breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

A series of fires also aggravated the situation, as they left bodies and other spaces that were often filled by rain, and hosted mosquitoes, the mayor said.

He said it was up to the residents to keep the area clean and safe from the mosquito-borne disease.

Abalos said almost all of the school's 64 teachers would take part in the cleaning operations until Friday, while several parents also volunteered their services in filling up or removing possible mosquito breeding grounds in the school.



RICHES AND REALES. As vice Ansal Pelayo Elementary School in Marawi City, Board of Election Inspector Marsiah Marohom reads ballots taken from precincts in Malabang, Lanao del Sur, prior to their being brought to the provincial capital. LYNDA GRAY

Dengue here to stay; 12,308 taken ill

recorded 42 cases from May 1 to July 31 this year alone. Dengue infection pointed at 10 cases from June 5 to June 11.

The village had only two cases from May 1 to 31, the DOH reported yesterday. (See story above.)

Another hardly-affected area, General Tinio in Nueva Ecija, had a total of 90 cases and two deaths from July 1 to Aug. 2. Cases there in the double-digit of 5,000 cases.

Region V had only the double digits having the third highest number of cases at 1,327. Region 7 recorded 1,198 cases and 22 deaths.

Two types of fever

Areas with a high prevalence of infections, including Tarlac, suggested that the victims came down with "dengue hemorrhagic fever," the most common and more fatal of the two types of dengue fever, according to Tayag. The other is "classical dengue" or "break-bone fever."

Dengue is usually characterized by a drop in the platelet count below the normal 100,000. A severe case records regular blood transfusion.

Of the country's 12,308 cases as of last week, Tayag said 39 to 50 percent involved dengue hemorrhagic fever while the rest of the victims had "break-bone fever," which usually causes excessive muscle and joint pains.

Clustering

The 10,813 reported a "dramatic" of dengue cases in at least eight provinces and regions. An area is clustered if it registers three or more cases in four consecutive weeks.

Three of these areas were in Calabarzon: Bulakan in Mendez-Nunez, Kalinawayan in Malaybalay, and Poblacion in Lumbayao. There were seven in Mimaropa: Poblacion in Libertad, Poblacion in El Salvador, and Poblacion in Claveria.

Malacañang lives in Llanera de Oro in Bindoy and Dapang Silay in San Jose del Monte, Sa-ilo Cumagun Poblacion in Bandajan and Bonbon in Cainta.

Also affected were Poblacion in Infanta, Quezon, Macrohongos in San Lorenzo, Nueva Ecija, and 13 barangays in Cagayan de Oro City.

In Metro Manila, clustering of cases was reported in Southwest Street in Dokumento Village, Malabon; 11 Verona Street and Puerta in Tondo, and Asunsion Street in Sta. Mesa, Manila.

As dengue cases continued to soar, Tayag urged the public to take pains in lessening about the disease and to take measures to avoid getting infected.

Common symptoms

Common symptoms like a high fever that suddenly drops after a few days, lethargy and stomachache should prompt people to immediately seek treatment, he said.

Eliminating breeding grounds by "Aedes aegypti" or dengue-carrying mosquitoes is also a must. These are usually containers holding stagnant water after storm, allowing mosquitoes to breed.

The government's response in dealing with dengue hemorrhagic fever involves the administering of aspirin, an antifever drug. Aspirin will just worsen a patient's condition because it prevents blood clotting, according to Tayag.

"Dengue is not to be trifled with," he said. "You can only reduce significantly the number of mosquito-breeding sites so you can limit the spread of dengue, but you cannot eliminate it totally."

On the average, most Filipinos get six bouts of dengue fever before reaching age 14, he said.

"So one can determine if it was your first or last," he said. "It all depends on age."

The dengue season, 45 percent of all cases belong to the 1-5 age group, according to the epidemiologist.

There's no clear . . .

Despite allegations of fraud during the balloting, the Commission on Elections said the area ARMM province would be known today (Yesterday).

"The way things are going, we can conclude that all candidates are not vice governor," Commissioner Florentino Tuason Jr. said.

Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Jr. said people from Basilan, Tawi-Tawi, Sulu, Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur and Marawi City should file cases with the poll body and "we will immediately act on them."

The Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPRV), a Catholic-organized watchdog, said some watchers of political parties reported cases of anomalies, such as ballots being filled on the eve of voting in the five provinces and one city comprising the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

Monday's elections were seen as a test of the Arroyo administration's ability to hold fair polls after the "Hello Garci" electoral fraud scandal that pushed the opposition presidency to the brink of collapse last month. But there were reports of traditional dirty tricks.

Comelec officials have not released partial figures that would show a winning trend for anyone in the fight for the post of governor, or lower.

The official tally of the provincial board of canvassers showed that in Sultan Mastura town, Arquisola got 1,100 votes, giving him a big margin over his opponents. Ulo Ibral Mahid Mamalian of Comgen only got 37% and Ibrahim Hajjul 88 90.

But initial results from Lanao del Sur showed Mullah with 96,013 votes against Ampatuan's 75,981.

Early results from Sulu, Tawi-Tawi and Basilan favored Arquisola.

In radio are the posts of governor, vice governor and 24 regional legislative assembly seat.

Snooze battle

Speaking of the voting in Lanao del Sur, where he is in charge of the balloting, Election Commissioner Resurreccion Borra said the results so far showed "a scenario for the re-elected governor as well as the vice governor."

"By tomorrow (Wednesday), we might be able to proclaim the regional assemblymen for the first and second districts," he said on the ABC network.

Borra agreed with earlier assessments by other Comelec officials that the elections had been largely peaceful.

"For instance, in Lanao del Sur, there was no bloody incident, there was no killing ... no shooting."

Borra cited the Church-backed Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting for "working effectively and coordinating" with the Comelec in ensuring a successful election. He also gave credit to youth volunteer groups.

"I hope they (PPRV) remain as they are. They have unofficially helped us in the past in this," he said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo hailed the elections as a "triumph of democracy."

"... [They] shows the maturity and great potential of regional autonomy as enshrined in our Constitution," she said in statement.

Ito Aroyo thanked the people of the ARMM, the police and military, civil society groups, and "all stakeholders of democracy" for the successful elections.

"This is an important stage in our quest for political change and in bringing the power of the political center to the regions where the power of the people resides," she said.

For Abalos, the elections were largely peaceful because there were no political fights in the municipal level.

"The rivalry was not that heated because there were no regional candidates. A few cases of violence was in the regional assembly," he said in a phone interview.

The ARMM, as well as many parts of Mindanao, is notorious for the feuds among political clans contending local posts in their areas. In the past, some used private armies and goons.

Abalos said he was glad that the ARMM residents "chose to prove to the rest of the country that their elections can be peaceful and facilitative, thus returning to a vintage industry in this region."

Abalos said the turnout was about 60 percent.

Pagbo applauded of "having been cleansed."

He said he had received reports of pre-filled up ballots and of fraud efforts by groups campaigning for candidates during election day.

But Pagbo, who refused to disclose the candidates who benefited from the alleged irregularities, said he would not file a formal complaint with the Comelec as this "would only be a waste of time."

Still, Pagbo would not concede defeat.

"I will not accept that I lost. I was cheated," he said.

'Open cheating'

A retired Army colonel, who asked not to be named, said it was terrible. The cheating was done openly in any precinct in [Basilan] Mount in Isulu Office Mount.

Lanao del Sur, many of those who voted along with him were not residents of the village.

The same observation was expressed by PPCRV member Fr. Bong Mercene. The incident had been reported to the group's headquarters here.

Others just had to close their eyes to the glaring exercise of one's "right" to normal fraud, he said.

There were also cases of harassment by armed men.

Grenade blasts were reported in Cotabato City and Pagalungan, a town in Maguindanao and Gen. Santos City, particularly in front of the police precinct in Barangay Tinagacan.

In Marawi City, Alonto ordered the relief of the police chief of Lanao del Sur, Senior Supt. Ismael Pelaez Wahib, because of his alleged involvement in the purported attempt of Lanao del Sur Governor Mamintal Adiong Jr. to kidnap Mayor Mohammad Mamalinta (not Mahalana as earlier reported) to stop the polls in Marawi. With reports from *Jimmy Antos, Edwin O. Fernando, Charlie L. Infante and Sally Ann Ann, PDI Abdulmari Barrios, Christine O. Avendaño and Norman Araneta in Manila*

Holy water, incense, roses exorcise . . .

[illegible] has a conscience and he should be aware about the evil of corruption and the evil of corruption," he said.

"My prayer on this the conscience of our representatives be awakened, purified and sensitized to the delicate art of discernment and decision-making particularly in relation the impeachment process," he added.

Reyes said he hoped that the title of Secretary would result, adding that he had heard rumors that members of the House were being offered P5 million each not to sign the impeachment complaint and P10 million for those who had already signed to withdraw their signatures.

He said acts of evil like dishonesty and cheating in whatever form were in collusion with the Prince of Darkness.

The exorcism began as the guru of the House on Senator Manuel Villar Jr. gathered around 700 members of Alabaya and Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales.

Wreath of garlic

Alabaya members brought along a wreath of garlic to "ward off evil."

Blessing the Catholic Church's ancient Rite of Exorcism in Spanish, Reyes led those present in reciting their baptismal vows in reciting "Satan and all his works."

Reyes said the spreading of holy water symbolized "cleansing or purification" while the incense, which symbol throughout Congress through its air-conditioning system, was to remind everyone that it should be a "holy place" and a "House of the Lord."

Rep. Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba and Sarapaya joined Tobias for the Mass with protocol-bearer Imelda Marcos at the House's south wing lobby.

Show

Administration lawmakers, however, were not amused to what they called a "palabas (show)."

Pampanga Rep. Edwardo Zialcita told opposition lawmakers "not to cloak themselves with religious trappings to protect themselves as right-to-remedy."

Zialcita said members free of influence to serve around them the articles of exorcism rites?" he asked.

He said the opposition should be prepared for an "exacting scrutiny" of the impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. which he said was likely to "Fix-ion" in the committee on justice.

"Perhaps it is right for them to pray after all, because if we go by the Impeachment complaint filed), they don't stand a ghost of a chance," Zialcita said.

Let truth come out

As for Mass, Tobias urged the actors to answer the "call to penance" by instructing her allies in Congress not to obstruct the impeachment process.

Tobias suggested that the Pro-Abnoi take it leave of absence to dispel suspicion that the sole purpose is to influence the process.

He appealed to all members of the House to let the truth come out. "Isn't asking too much of our public servants to act pro-active hiding your own agenda." The problem is we cannot assess those who do the truth first."

Tobias, rumored of a popular backlash if the impeachment process was subverted.

"Remember, the voice of the people does not lie," he said. Do not be sure that the poor are quiet because they are lie you. They are quiet because they do not yet have the truth," he said.

"If you do not give them that, the time will come that they will take the truth in their own hands. God forbid this because the remedy is not a remedy. So remember give the people the truth or we go down," he said.

Malacañang on attack mode

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye insisted the opposition be urging them to "shut down their witness testimony because all their credibility."

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday said "flip-flopping witnesses and their handlers were liable for perjury and proof that they were used by the opposition in its crusade against Arroyo.

In an interview, Gonzalez also took Archbishop Oscar Cruz to task for allegedly allowing himself to be manipulated by the opposition in his crusade against Arroyo.

"He should go to confession," Gonzalez said of Cruz, who had dinner with "dengue hemorrhagic fever," the most common and more fatal of the two types of dengue fever, according to Tayag. The other is "classical dengue" or "break-bone fever."

Dengue is usually characterized by a drop in the platelet count below the normal 100,000. A severe case records regular blood transfusion.

Of the country's 12,308 cases as of last week, Tayag said 39 to 50 percent involved dengue hemorrhagic fever while the rest of the victims had "break-bone fever," which usually causes excessive muscle and joint pains.

Clustering

The 10,813 reported a "dramatic" of dengue cases in at least eight provinces and regions. An area is clustered if it registers three or more cases in four consecutive weeks.

Three of these areas were in Calabarzon: Bulakan in Mendez-Nunez, Kalinawayan in Malaybalay, and Poblacion in Lumbayao. There were seven in Mimaropa: Poblacion in Libertad, Poblacion in El Salvador, and Poblacion in Claveria.

Malacañang lives in Llanera de Oro in Bindoy and Dapang Silay in San Jose del Monte, Sa-ilo Cumagun Poblacion in Bandajan and Bonbon in Cainta.

Also affected were Poblacion in Infanta, Quezon, Macrohongos in San Lorenzo, Nueva Ecija, and 13 barangays in Cagayan de Oro City.

In Metro Manila, clustering of cases was reported in Southwest Street in Dokumento Village, Malabon; 11 Verona Street and Puerta in Tondo, and Asunsion Street in Sta. Mesa, Manila.

As dengue cases continued to soar, Tayag urged the public to take pains in lessening about the disease and to take measures to avoid getting infected.

Common symptoms

Common symptoms like a high fever that suddenly drops after a few days, lethargy and stomachache should prompt people to immediately seek treatment, he said.

Eliminating breeding grounds by "Aedes aegypti" or dengue-carrying mosquitoes is also a must. These are usually containers holding stagnant water after storm, allowing mosquitoes to breed.

The government's response in dealing with dengue hemorrhagic fever involves the administering of aspirin, an antifever drug. Aspirin will just worsen a patient's condition because it prevents blood clotting, according to Tayag.

"Dengue is not to be trifled with," he said. "You can only reduce significantly the number of mosquito-breeding sites so you can limit the spread of dengue, but you cannot eliminate it totally."

On the average, most Filipinos get six bouts of dengue fever before reaching age 14, he said.

"So one can determine if it was your first or last," he said. "It all depends on age."

The dengue season, 45 percent of all cases belong to the 1-5 age group, according to the epidemiologist.

'Another gunman shot Luigi'

By Marjorie C. Ortiz

TO FILIPINO-AMERICAN friends of the MSNBC television director shot to death outside an upscale Makati bar to have been expressed willingness to give official statement, that there was a second gunman involved in the incident, according to a National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) agent.

NBI Special Investigation Bureau 6 branches of the NBI Background Investigation Division said the lawyer of director Louis "Luigi" Bastiaga's family "was already in the process of getting statements from the other witnesses."

"The witnesses are positive that another gunman shot Bastiaga," [illegible].

Gaerlan said at least five of Bastiaga's FA-line friends initially refused to give their statements to the bureau "because they thought that northward gunman. Other [illegible] was a mere suspect."

Change of heart

"But when they learned that [illegible] had confessed to multi-[illegible] firing and denied shooting Bastiaga, they decided to [illegible] on what they thought really happened," Gaerlan said.

Bastiaga's friends reportedly insisted that they had at least four shots while they were still nursing injuries.

Speaking for the bereaved family, Lawyer Chico Gerona said that some witnesses were saying that [illegible] was not the gunman.

"The family is asking these people to execute their affidavits," Gerona told the [illegible].

The lawyer said witnesses should officially refer their statements "to the teams of police."

In the meantime, Gerona said, "We still stand by our earlier assurance that Jamaica was the lone gunman because all our eyewitnesses point to him."

Vendors thwart OBR take-off

By Tarra Y. Quismundo

WITH everything in place, there was only one hitch...vendors on the busy road to Baclaran.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) had first to tangle with the port[illegible] of the implementation of the Organized Bus Route (OBR) scheme, the long-shelved single-bus dispatch system for which the agency reluctantly had a breakthrough agreement with bus operators and [illegible] owners.

"Baclaran is one number one problem. We already have a terminal in Baclaran, but it is now occupied by vendors," said MMDA Traffic Operations Center Executive Director Angelito Vergel de Dios.

Baclaran is a busy destination in Parañaque City frequented by Metro Manila residents and other commuters visiting the popular Redemptorist Church.

Last week, MMDA Chairman Bayani Fernando announced that the OBR would finally be implemented this week, after the agency brought the majority of bus companies to an end to what had been a guaranteed dispatch privilege under the scheme.

The OBR, first implemented as a traffic reduction experiment in 2000, was conceived to cut bus volume on traffic-clogged Edsa by limiting the number of buses plying the entire on a given time. It's a "first on, first off" basis, buses from different companies would line up in MMDA-established terminals to await dispatch.

Terminals at the outlying Sinsuan, Balintawak, Novaliches, Sirotan, Alabang, and Baclaran had been prepared for the full implementation of the scheme. But while the other five have long been ready, the Baclaran terminal remains cleared with the area in custody of illegal vendors, said Vergel de Dios.

He added that the OBR could now be partially implemented by operating the schemes in the other routes, as this would defeat the purpose of having an organized dispatch for all buses transversing Edsa.

"It's either we run the risk down over or we clear them out of the terminal. But of course we cannot consider the first option, so we just have to undertake clearing operations," the traffic chief added.

The agency hopes this would be a major hurdle, considering its sidewalk clearing teams in Baclaran and Divisoria now with even more in the guns.

Apart from meeting with Parañaque city officials and the National Capital Region Police Office for the clearing, Vergel de Dios said the agency would also need police back-up for the new wave of clearing operations since previous incidents had ended up [illegible].

MetroBriefs

Castly thick

TWO MEN were given life sentences for killing their neighbor who had confronted several days for finishing his guitar while he was sleeping. Bernardo Ocampo and Rhodel Bernabe were found guilty of stabbing Teodorico Jerod dead after the latter accused them of letting his guitar strike his head causing [illegible] in Antipolo City, Rizal, on May 1, 2003. The two estranged lovers confronted's mother and who said that there was a need to [illegible] Teodorico died shortly after the [illegible] with [illegible] and [illegible]. Bernabe is a brother-in-law and a first cousin of the victim. Source: City Regional

Trial Court Branch 61 Judge Ma. Theresa Dolor said the two used their superior strength over the victim and found them guilty of murder. Both used [illegible] and were also ordered to pay P100,000 each to Jerod's heirs. AJ Yap

TIDBITS

Death for dad

A MANILA judge yesterday meted out the double death penalty to a father convicted of killing his two young sons over [illegible]. Judge Silvino

'4 o'clock habit' poised against dengue

FIGHTING dengue should be a habit.

With that in mind, Caloocan City recently launched a campaign aimed at developing residents a "4 o'clock habit" of cleaning their surroundings to destroy possible breeding areas of dengue-carrying mosquitoes, said Mayor Enrique Echiverri.

Mosquitoes who bite during the day called dusks are gapri and dusks ellapitan, which breed in stagnant waters, transmit the disease is all, regardless of age and physical well-being.

Dipendorm, like Jogging, have been intensified, especially in areas where dengue was previously reported.

The local health department also launched an information campaign to fight and avoid the disease.

Meanwhile, local health officials are not taking chances.

"We refer possible dengue cases to the Lazaro Hospital in Manila because many have the facilities to treat the patient right away," said Dr. Jose Ian Galvez of the city's Department Health Municipal Memorial Center.

Galvez's boss public health official has had only two possible dengue cases since June.

Galvez advised parents to clean their surroundings and take loss of fluids and vitamin C.

Across Metro Manila in Las Piñas, Mayor Imelda T. Aguilar ordered city officials to clean up canals, creeks and other waterways.

She also told doctors and health workers to monitor public school students as soon as there their safety.

The mayor also urged private school administrators to do the same.

"Prevention is still better," she said. Soncap G. Corvajal

PRO-GYM
WORLD-CLASS EQUIPMENT TO MATCH YOUR BUDGET
SEPTEM, INC.

Mother, wife receive medals of hero-cops

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A BROTHER and a wife lost their loved ones in separate incidents. But the other day, each of them went home with a medal that symbolized the heroism and the life lost by their loved ones.

Cpl. Nicolas Valenzuela Bernal and Pfc[illegible] Nadia de received the Medalya ng Kagalingan awarded by National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) chief Gen. Avelino Vidal Quiroz in [illegible] Larry Bernal and PFC Arnaldo Fernandez III, who died in the line of duty.

Bernal, of the Pasay City Mobile Patrol Division was killed after suddenly on July 29 while patrolling a "holdup hotspot." In the city it supposed holdup man shot him in the chest and arm.

During the recognition rites at the NCRPO grounds, Bernal's wife broke into tears as Quiroz pinned the medal on her white blouse.

"I hope it was my husband who was personally receiving this award," said Oloinda in an interview after the ceremony.

When the Philippine National Police Anthem was sung, the widow broke into tears because her husband's colleagues had told her that it was the song Bernal was singing before he was shot.

"I am so touched by the [illegible] song," she added, adding that it was what her husband did—save another's life.

Bernal was set to retire late January but continued his service because his three sons aged 17, 14 and 4 were still in school.

Nadida said her son, Hernandez, was one to his job as a member of the NCRPO special weapons and tactics team.

Hernandez was killed in a holdup at the West Service Road in Parañaque City in February this year.

Nadida had nothing but tears when the reconstructed her memories with her 28 year-old son.

"He was a quiet man. Whenever I scolded him he would just listen to me and not answer back," she said.

She also added that her son was the breadwinner and was supporting his younger brother who was still in school.

"I hope what happened to my son would serve as a lesson to other policemen. I hope they would show that they are devoted to their profession," she said.

Nadida and Bernal said they would display the medals with their medals and Bernal's belongings.

INQUIRER Platinum Code
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
PLATINUM ANNIVERSARY
What is an adjective which means nothing is or ever the colour?
Find the answer to the question in the highlighted letters above. Highlighted letters may be used more than once. Text in your answer to 2919P for GLOBE, Globe, and Sun Cellular subscribers and get a chance to win in the weekly or grand draws!
To win, simply send [illegible] to 2919P. For unlimited answers, [illegible] to 2919P. Each entry costs P12.50. For an unlimited answer, [illegible]. Each entry costs P12.50 and is valid for [illegible] per day.
Prizes of [illegible]
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
See print ads and flyers for complete details.

Hong Kong Shopping Tour fm US$53*
Indulge in an unforgettable shopping spree during the Hong Kong Shopping Festival. On now till end August. Choose the Hong Kong Shopping Tour or Hong Kong Fun Tour at irresistible prices. Shop and dine to your heart's desire as participating stores and restaurants will stay open until 10 pm or later. Delight in the amazing selection, promotions, diversity and excitement of this shopping experience. And you also get an all-expense paid trip to Lucky Island like you in Hong Kong!
*US$299 Hong Kong Shopping Tour for US$53
US$399 Hong Kong Summer Fun Tour for US$80
Book now! Call your travel agent today.

METRO
E-mail us at metro@inquirer.com.ph
Tips on your fastbacks
[illegible] or 151 (Smart)
Edited by Dean G. Dipasupil

Ramos slay suspect eyed as state witness

By Tarra Y. Quismundo

ONE OF three men police had linked to the killing of diplomat Alicia Ramos on April 24 is being eyed as a possible state witness.

"I have reserved my right to court to present Joel Abley as a state witness," said Senior State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco in a pre-trial hearing yesterday. He was the first one who was very helpful and cooperative, and had identified the other participants in the crime."

Abley was arrested after he made a tearful confession about his participation in the crime over a round of drinks with friends, a few days after Ramos, then assistant foreign secretary, was killed inside her house on 32nd Northstreet, Batasang Pambansa, Quezon City.

A companion, Richard Cecil, was arrested later. The alleged mastermind, Roberto Lumague, surrendered two weeks after the killing after Abley and Cecil said he had been a participant in the crime.

The three were later accused of breaking into the Ramos house where they allegedly stole some P1 million worth of valuables. Ramos died of suffocation after she was gagged and bagged during the robbery.

During the arraignment for charges of robbery with homicide, the three men entered a not guilty plea in the sala of Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 147 Judge Maria Cristina Cuesta.

Abley's statement is important as the senior chief he would testify that it was Lumague who had recruited them and planned the whole thing. He has direct knowledge of the incident," Velasco said, referring to what Abley had told state the media in earlier interviews.

Velasco's proposal to make Abley a prosecution witness would mean dropping the latter from the list of the accused and putting him under government protection. Abley is now detained with Cecil and Lumague at Camp Bagong Diwa.

"The condition is that Abley should plead guilty to the charges first before any request that the charges be dropped. He said he would talk to his lawyer about this," said Velasco.

Abley can then withdraw the not guilty plea he made earlier, and seek a re-arraignment later. "This would pave the way for the state prosecutor to file a formal motion for his discharge as a state witness," Velasco added.

RAMOS

WALANG KINIKILALA ANG MGA KRIMINAL.
PERO PWEDE MO SILANG KILALANIN.

"Dahil sa PLDT Caller ID, mas nakakaiwas sa krimen ang isang pamilya. Dahil rin dito, marami nang nalutas na krimen ang DILG. Natutukoy agad ang bawat tumatawag, kaya mas madaling mag-report sa Hotline 117 kung may nagaganap na krimen."

Secretary Angelo T. Reyes
DILG

PLDT Caller ID
Knows All Calls.

P299 lang, katumbas ay kaligtasan.

Para sa proteksiyon at seguridad ng inyong pamilya, mag-PLDT Caller ID. Ngayon, makukuha na sa mas mababang halaga.

Caller ID Adjunct
Promo Price:
P299

Caller ID Built-in Handset
Promo Price:
P899

Punta na sa pinakamalapit na PLDT Business Office!

Naibibisa sa pagpatupad ng batas:

PLDT
Iba Pa Rin Ang May PLDT Landline
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1826 Series of 2005.

BUSINESS

Editor Raul D. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Dennis B. Mariano

Oil surges to new high; tops $64/barrel

ADB sees slower East Asian growth

RECORD HIGH oil prices, slower exports and lower growth in eight developing economies in China and Singapore are expected to reduce East Asia's economic growth rate to 6.8 percent this year from 7.6 percent in 2004, the Asian Development Bank said yesterday.

If used, China's economic growth is likely to slow to 8.9 percent from 9.5 percent last year, and Singapore is expected to be among the economies hardest hit by weaker export prospects.

Singapore's growth will likely fall to 3.7 percent this year from 6.4 percent in 2004, the ADB said.

The East Asian economies include the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations plus China and South Korea.

"We now face a backdrop of moderately slowing growth, a gradual buildup of inflationary pressures, and a tightening of US monetary policy," said Prabhakar B. Rana, senior director of ADB's Office of Regional Integration.

"The key challenge for East Asia is to calibrate fiscal, monetary and exchange rate policies while at the same time pursuing structural reforms to strengthen domestic demand," he said.

The report said the forecasts were subject to risks posed by a further rise in prices.

(CON'T ON A2)

Markets watching Saudi Arabia, Iran

OIL BUMPED above $64 a barrel to another record high yesterday as traders focused in the potential for Middle East supply disruptions that could add strain to a market already struggling with refinery glitches.

In Saudi Arabia, the world's top exporter, US officials reassured that for a second day and Britain said militants were in the "final stages" of planning attacks while the UK counter-terrorism proposed to deport Iran's extremists of nuclear work.

US light sweet crude soared past Monday's record high as early electronic trade in Singapore yesterday hitting a new peak of $64.27 a barrel, 46 percent higher than the end of the year. London Brent crude was up 19 cents at $62.93.

"The key areas now is the geopolitical risk," said Declan Kennedy, senior investment strategist at SIA Investment Ltd in Hong Kong.

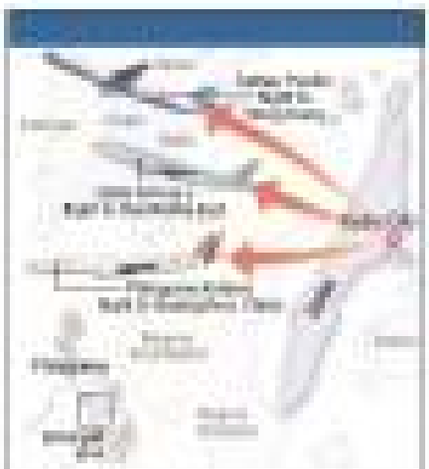
"Because spare capacity is so low, any threat to supply makes the market very nervous, either on the crude side or refined product side," he added.

After rallying more than $4a on a series of US refinery outages that threatens to tighten fuel supplies, prices soared this week as Middle East security fears once more took to the fore.

Britain on Monday cited "credible reports" of an attack on Saudi oil facilities, which is leading a two-year campaign of violence by supporters of Osama bin Laden's network.

(BLOOMBERG, AP, AFP, REUTERS, A2)

More carriers to use Cebu airport



By Clarissa S. Batino

HONG KONG carrier Cathay Pacific will become its fifth to start a daily or near-daily flight to Mactan International Airport starting Oct. 1 in anticipation of increased volumes going to the Greater Chinese city, the fastest-growing park option in the Chinese territory next month.

Philippine Airlines and Qatar Airways would also introduce new flights from Cebu by the fourth quarter of the year, according to Mactan Airport general manager Ariel Berto Yap.

PAL will launch a direct flight to Guangzhou, China, by the fourth quarter while Qatar will increase its flights to twice daily to and from Cebu.

"Qatar is the only airline serving the Middle East route direct from Cebu and has a monopoly of the overseas workers from the Visayas and Mindanao," Yap said in an interview.

By the middle of this month, South Pacific Airlines is scheduled to resume flights from Malaysia to Cebu, according to Yap. The low-cost carrier is a joint venture of Malaysian and Filipino investors.

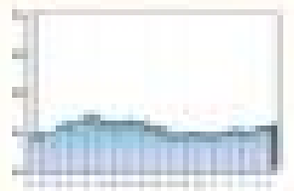
Jesus Ekuerde currently flies to Kaohsiung and Taichung. Cargo carrier Trans Global Air Lines will also start carrying goods from Asia, primarily China, through the Cebu hub by Aug. 22.

Last month, Asiana Airlines started its four-times-a-week flights from Incheon to Cebu while Korean Airlines began its three-times-a-week flights from Incheon to Cebu on April and Aug. 1.

Yap said the Mactan airport had completed

(CON'T ON B2)

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 54.875 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m. Aug. 9, 2005

₱ 111.76 = € 1

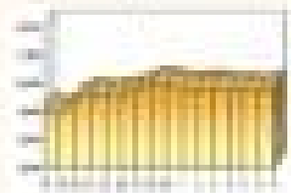
As of 5 p.m. Aug. 9, 2005

GOLD (PER TROY OUNCE)

as of 8:00 a.m. Aug. 9, 2005

STOCK MARKET

Telecoms, SM lead market higher



The main index rose yesterday, boosted by demand for blue chips including PLDT, Globe Telecom, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Smart Telecom.

The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index rose 31.17 points, or 0.8 percent, at 3,865, after shedding 0.8 percent Monday, traders said.

SM Prime, the nation's largest mall operator, gained 0.5 centavos to P7.20, with investors buying the stock ahead of the release of its second-quarter earnings report.

PLDT was up 0.4 percent at P1,230 as speculation the country's largest telecommunications company will end its 40-year monopoly over licenses for the rest of the year despite the industry's slowing growth in cellular subscribers.

Its rival Globe rose 1.3 percent to P810, as investors took on the world's 'phone service provider considering its revenue growth options.

"Corporate earnings have generally been strong despite the sporadic rallies that started in the second quarter, so investors may see the accumulating stocks," said BPI Securities senior manager Rolando Cruz. "But investors are not really aggressively buying up stocks. The market is still within a consolidation phase."

Cruz said investors may continue to wait ahead of the Supreme Court ruling on amendments to the value-added tax. The court suspended the amendments last month after the opposition questioned their constitutionality.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Priced-to-Go B1

Texas seeks end to dispute in PNB B2

MEETING SET THURSDAY

Teves seeks end to dispute in PNB

Nokia sees sustained growth in RP

By Gaviola S. Rosales

THE GROWTH of the Philippine market for mobile phones may slow once half of the Filipino population gets at least one phone, according to Nokia Philippines.

However, Nokia Philippines country manager Rodolfo Rhein said the growing penetration of sub-model handsets had given birth to a replacement market that is driving sales of mobile phones in the Philippines.

"A lot of growth is still happening in this market. The trend is now moving towards the upgrade of handsets," Rhein said in attending yesterday.

Rhein admitted the growth in the Philippine market "may not be as rapid nor as deep as before," especially since the penetration rate hits 38 percent of the population.

As of June, close to 26 million Filipinos have become wireless phone subscribers, corresponding to a penetration rate of 43 percent.

But opportunities for expansion, he said, will abound, especially for Nokia, which has remained the market leader in the Philippines.

World-wide, the Finnish phone maker holds 32 percent of the market.

The Nokia executive said the rate of replacement of handsets in the Philippine had shortened from the previous average of 36 Advocardio.

Consumers, he said, usually wanted to upgrade their phones—from black-and-white to color screens, from phones to units with cameras and music capabilities.

Because of the trend, almost all the new phones that Nokia will launch in the local market will have cameras.

These include the 6020, 6108, 3G 33 and 6270 models.

By next year, the new 3G phones, which he'll ensure, will be available.

By Doris C. Dumlao

PESO/US Secretary Gary Teves has scheduled a make or break meeting tomorrow among aggrieved sugar planters, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and Philippine National Bank to settle the dispute over P1 billion in sugar crop loans ahead of the bank's privatization.

The meeting comes just a day before the stock exchange's building for the 67- percent stake in PNB, which the government had vowed to push through.

It aims to address the sugar planters' concerns over their debts that the BSP took out of PNB as part of a decision on sugar payments in kind arrangement in 1994.

Asked yesterday whether he was optimistic that the issues would be laid to rest tomorrow, Teves said: "We'll try our best."

In an interview yesterday, Daniel Hugad, legal counsel for Western Agrarian the Planter of the Negros Industries (Negri), said the group had reconsider of settlement options to present to the BSP and PNB that would allow sugar planters to share in the possible boon and give them a chance to free up mortgaged property.

"The BSP must consider not only saving PNB, but at the very least, give the same opportunity to the sugar planters who were victimized," Hugad said.

He said the planters must be allowed to buy back the loans at the same value the BSP offered to PNB.

He said these loans were originally sold under asset litigation and should not even be a deal on penalizing such transaction.

One option, Hugad said, would be to allow the planters to take out the loans through a special purpose vehicle in a bond flotal.

The loans under dispute are agricultural sugar crop loans granted by the Philippine National Bank for the 1986A.

In 1991, RFB was privatized and became a PNB subsidiary known as PHILRA. In 1998, PNB-RB was sold to Maybank and PNB assumed jurisdiction over the sugar loans.

PNB today acts as the collecting agent of the P1 billion in obligations that the RBP is quoted through the decree in 1994.

In collecting agent, PNB was tasked by BSP to collect from the sugar mill many borrowers and remit to BSP which placed the money in an escrow fund that was supposed to settle the BSP loan in case when the bond fails (P1 bil. loan.

Negri earlier asked Teves to postpone the Aug. 12 bidding for the PNB stake, citing the "incomplete" and "grossly disadvantageous" deals allowing the bank to buy back, by 2013 over 4,000 unsound loans to sugar farmers earlier surrendered to the BSP.

The PNB auction on Friday is the biggest privatization initiative by the government since 1997, when it sold to Hong Kong's Hutchi group the right to develop the sprawling Nuvi Boulevard[illegible]

TURN TO

A seminar for developers, real estate professionals & investors !!!
MATHEMATICS of REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT
[illegible]
For more details, call 891-0915 or send an e-mail at [illegible]
Or simply text your fax no. or email address to 0918 889 4818
URBAN INSTITUTE OF REAL ESTATE

SO THE PUBLIC MAY KNOW

Audi

Auto Prominence Corporation
2326 Pasong Tamo Extension
City of Makati
Manila

Republic of the Philippines

30 September 2004

Termination of the Agreement on the sale of products of the Audi marque between AUDI AG and Auto Prominence Corporation

Dear Mr. Rodrigues,

We hereby terminate the agreement on the sale of products of the Audi marque concluded on June 4th , 2003 in accordance with Article 16. The termination shall become effective as March 31st, 2005.

We thank you for the cooperation in the past years and wish you a successful future in your other endeavours.

We would like you to have both originals signed. Please return one completely signed original to us.

Yours sincerely,

AUDI AG

i.V. [illegible]
Managing Director
Region Asia/Pacific

i.V.
S. Wilson-Stitch
Attorney at Law
Legal Department

Auto Prominence Corporation
Paul Y. Rodrigues

DISCLOSURES

[illegible] San Miguel Inc. will hold a briefing on the company's 2005 first-half results on Aug. 11, 3 p.m. at the Executive Dining Room, 23F SMC Head Office Complex, No. 40 San Miguel Ave., Mandaluyong City.

PHILSECOM, Bank shall be set for change in shareholdings of majority S. Edroso on Aug. 4. The total number of shares disposed is 770,201 and the total number of shares owned is [illegible].

LINGAYEN ET (Pub.) Commercial Bank Corp. disclosed the resignation of Atty. Marlene Funke Ebreo as an independent director, effective Aug. 8.

ELECTED directors of **Equitable PCI Bank** were Crescent S. De La Paz, Ramon J. Jabar, Felipe de B. Pacheco Jr., Ma. Lui C. Quesada, Rolando Zubiri Jr., Winston F. Garcia, Fernando P. Palermo, Antonio L. Ba, John C. Ho, Peter Sy, Pio Pedro, Secretario W.F.G. Jr., Ho Ahmad Nabi bin Ahmad, Peter J. Rustomjee, Anthony M. Te and Jesus S. Tirona.
Compiled by Celia A. Zamonte, PDI Research

Currencies

Issued 1, 2005		Peso Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
[illegible]				

Priced-to-Go

THE FILIPINO shareholders who are to the process of buying out their American partners in the Philippine warehouse chain are being allowed option (via overdraft) some short cuts.

According to the grapevine, Philippine chain Williams Oil has rounded up a group of partners to take 50 percent control of the Philippine operations of the San Diego, California-based membership club, with Makati-ans deciding to return to 30 percent stake.

With the Americans leaving the retail scene —Price Smart was the first foreign firm to take advantage of the Retail Trade Liberalization Law—Go and company will henceforth be free to source their imported merchandise, instead of receiving them through the Price Smart system.

Government experts that the approved buyback details of the contract were published in several papers yesterday. The San Diego headquarters has given the Filipinos until Aug. 29 to sign the settlement papers.

With the negotiations still very much underway, the Go group has not had time to figure a new name for the four-store chain. A few weeks ago, recommendations: Smart Price Club, Smarter Price Club, Smart Savers Club, Go Smart Club.

Anyone who submits a winning entry will receive a basket of goods, plus a copy signed by the entire Institute of Management to have ever been written by them.

Leading lawyers, likeliest lapses

CEEBEES thinks reception to the endorsement attention that the Manila law firm has secured on court rule to entirely devoting their most weekly column—normally reserved for dissecting Supreme Court decisions, not dissertations columnists—to another paper.

"The works of his opponents is symptomatic of the deplorable practice of certain elements of

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

Philippine media today: irresponsible, inaccurate and just plain dirty," Educational Activities publisher Rogelio Vinluan, referring to our friendly colonists.

Vinluan reminded his colleagues, Inquirer notes book, "the dilemma of the journalists profession today."

Strange comments, since Vinluan himself grew up (indeed as a copy of a Supreme Court decision in favor of the publisher for arresting

CONTINUED ON

Teves seeks end to dispute in PNB

Homepage

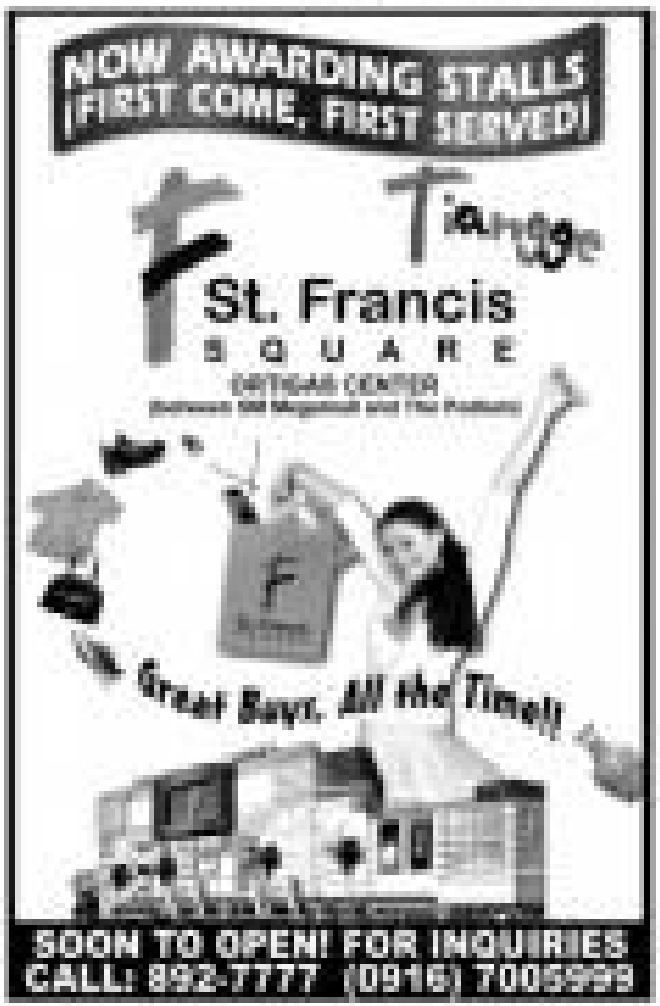
key coup in Equity.

"The Rizal price was set at P87 a share.

Given the prevailing situation from the Asian bust, particularly where the bank could not book in assets, Papa said the Rizal price for PNB for the private sector was underrated.

PNB, for its part, claimed that the Rizal price was based on a proper valuation done by independent financial advisers, SNG Bonds.

But Papa warned that whoever would end up with the control leg stake in PNB— possibly surpass Lucio Tan who has the right to match the best bid—would get "a controlling" based before done bears at the expense of the battered major reserves.



Mindanao power grid seen to be on brink of crisis

By Abigail L. Ho

THE MINDANAO grid is said to be teetering on the edge of a power crisis and in help is not forthcoming in the near future.

Already, the energy-starved island is experiencing power shortfalls and no additional capacity is expected to go on stream until 2007, with the completion of a 200-megawatt (MW) coal-fired power plant in Misamis Oriental now under construction.

Bryan committee on energy chair and Lanao del Norte Rep. Abdullah Dimaporo said that there were times when the grid would run up all its reserves due to severe lack of capacity.

The power shortage will be most keenly felt on the southern part of the main grid rather than on the northern part due to the presence of high-growth and high-demand areas such as General Santos City and Davao, Bautista said.

Ironically, all the power plants on the island are located on the northern side.

He said that the island's sole hope now rests with the coal plant still being constructed in Iligan as no other committed projects in the pipeline.

"All other projects are just indicative," Bautista said.

According to the Department of Energy's Philippine Energy Plan (PEP) for 2001 to 2014, the Mindanao grid needed 359 MW as indicative capacity composed of a 300-MW baseload capacity and a 250-MW peaking capacity, to respond to the then-seen demand growth in the region.

"There is also an urgent need to install a 150-MW peaking plant to sustain the reliable power supply in the region in the near term," the PEP said.

Among the indicative capacity additions for the Mindanao grid are the 200-MW Iligan Diesel coal-fired plant, the 68-MW Tagoloan hydropower project and the 56-MW Mt. Apo geothermal expansion project.

Mindanao needs some P77.4 billion in new generation from 2000 to 2014 to prevent a crisis, particularly during the summer months.

SEC urged to take over resources of troubled pre-need company

By Roland W. Dorotan

COMAKERS welfare advocate Raul T. Concepcion yesterday urged the government to push for the takeover by the SEC of the assets of the remaining resources of beleaguered pre-need firm College Assurance Plan (CAP) to protect some 700,000 plan holders.

Concepcion, who chairs the private sector watchdog Consumer and Oil Price Watch, said his group was making the call after a thorough review of the case and following a "display of lack of transparency" from CAP officials.

He said CAP2 would submit within the week its list of proposals to the Securities and Exchange Commission. The group said the SEC should consider:

■ Creating a management committee to take over CAP and immediately address the deficiency of CAP's depleted trust fund.

■ Asking CAP to return the trust funds and assets used to buy shares of stocks and properties from companies affiliated with or owned and managed by CAP's principal stockholders, officers and directors.

■ Tapping a reputable and internationally recognized accounting firm to certify the financial condition of the various trust funds and set an overnight moratorium during the takeover.

Last month, the organizing body had ordered CAP to explain why it should not be taken over and made to pay penalties for its numerous unresolved requirements.

Official data show that CAP has about 300,000 working plan holders and P12 billion in liabilities as of October.

CAP's license to sell retirement plans was suspended last year as it struggled to find new equities to address its trust fund deficit.

Yesterday, Concepcion said the SEC should permit CAP a business permit only for selling fixed- or close-ended retirement plans.

Also, Concepcion announced that CAP policy holders who wanted to join a class suit filed by Lucio Pascual Lopez & Lanuza law firm should contact the lawyers in the Security Bank Center on Ayala Avenue, telephone numbers 816-8079 and 816-3686.

Oil surges to new . . .

Speculative fears about Middle East flows were complemented by fundamental factors as the United States, where most refinery glitches heightened doubts about whether summer fuel supplies would conclude July the way we do this driving season.

Nearly a dozen refineries have been forced to close down unexpectedly in the past few weeks as a summer of lines left the US operations begins to take its toll.

Adding to the list, Sunoco Inc. shut its 200,000 barrel per day Tripoli (Philadelphia refinery) the weekend after a fire, while Motiva Enterprises LLC's 306,000 barrel Delaware City refinery has been operating at only 50,000 bpd at its Sunoco, Texas, refinery.

The glitches, coupled with still strong demand, are likely to cause another fall in weekly U.S. gasoline inventories, industry analysts predicted on Monday. Stocks were expected to show by 1.8 million barrels while crude inventories may jump by 2.8 million barrels.

Pump prices in the United States reached a record high $1.37 a gallon last week, the government said on Monday, but the global economy has thus far largely shrugged off higher fuel costs.

Reuters

Cocktales

Remember twelve-sweeting the Kampanas bread segment at Wilmer Plaza in former Batangas Governor Leviste.

More recently, Accenture also looked to us a copy of the memo's case between the late billionaire Enrique Zobel and his estranged son-in-law, with the report in time that Chairman Cesar Zobel still not settling for Zobel to be found.

Despite being the leading counsel of Banco Nacional de Mex, Accenture said it more handled the millennium one, as we had reported Fri-Day the French bank had filed against the ailing Prema Group.

The Accenture-delegitimized beer provided to Cocktales by another [name], representing the Arab Group, which is also suing Prema.)

And, contrary to what was reported here Friday, Accenture said its partner Romulo Espaldon & Associates "heartily" is rooting GMA chair Winnie Garcia during the controversial Equitable-PCI Bank stockholders' meeting. It called the Friday account, where it also said Espaldon ordered the bank guards to escort Garcia out of the meeting, "a malicious lie."

Our sources, our bank director and another [illegible] read by our [illegible].

Money go-round

■ MEGAWORLD will build the 17-condominium project with the Acuario Center in four different locations within the 30-hectare complex. The first cluster, whose groundbreaking is scheduled in the second quarter next year, will be residential right next to the new Ateneo Professional Schools.

■ THE MANILA Sports Club is trying to woo back its 4,800 members with its revamped courts, now provided by Jose Soberon, a joint venture of Home Work Kitchens Corp. and Stanley Ostamel wine and deli deli Bistro.

A branch deli of sorts is also in existence on Rockwell's first floor Power Plant mall.

Heard through the grapevine

THE UNDERWORLD will inaugurate mall soul, a Universal Robina factory in Varsovia for its Philippine brand packaged foods, candies and candy products.

Email: [illegible]@inquirer.net or [illegible]@yahoo.com

More carriers to use Cebu airport

From about 2.5 million passengers last year, the Cebu airport is expecting to handle 5 million passengers in five years.

Yap said the Mactan airport would build two new movable air bridges to support the growing volume, which is expected to increase in the coming weeks when two South Korean carriers start resuming their flights.

The airport authority says it has to bring in [illegible] passengers to cater to the [illegible] every time the four existing bridges are being used.

Lately this year, as have complained that the Mactan airport's rough runway surface was damaging the tires of their aircraft. Some even threatened to pull out if the runway was not fixed.

ADB sees slower East Asian growth

economies except China, continuing the trend since the middle of last year, the report said.

Coupled with higher oil prices and tightened loans to increase interest rates, the result has been a more rapid growth in domestic demand because of the region's economies, it said. AP

YOUR DAILY DOSE OF
BALANCED NEWS
AND FEARLESS VIEWS...

DELIVERED STRAIGHT TO YOUR DOORSTEP!

For Metro Manila home delivery, please call us at the following numbers:

528-0183 • 528-0186
897-8808 loc. 0267

or mail / fax coupon below.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
c/o Circulation Division
Ground Floor, Trinity Building, 404 T.M. Kalaw St. Ermita, Manila or you can fax to 528 - 8214

I'd like to subscribe to the Philippine Daily Inquirer.
Please have my copy delivered to:

Name _____
Address _____
_____ Tel. No. _____
Signature _____

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2005 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER C1

25U LIFESTYLE

MONDAY ARTS & Ladies' TUESDAY FITNESS WEDNESDAY 25U THURSDAY FOOD FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

Sex and the (young) city

Part 2

Last week, we gave you the statistics, we talked about STDs and the need for sex education, we wrote about teenage pregnancy and how life-changing it is. This week, 25U explores more sex issues—virginity, common sex misconceptions, contraceptives and even university sex scandals, in an issue that aims to inform, raise awareness and make a difference.

Youth myths about sex

Even with condoms or withdrawal, there are risks of pregnancy and disease contraction. Young people should not rush into having sex because there are health and emotional risks

By Nino Mark M. Sablan
25U Correspondent

MANY teenagers nowadays remain ignorant and confused about sex due to the lack of accurate and balanced information. Some parents refuse to speak with their teenage children about the touchy subject. Other resources can these (friends, pornography, some parents, etc.) may also provide lessons misleading or incorrect info.

In these times when unwanted pregnancies and STDs are prevalent, being armed with the right information about sex is important. Let 25U bring to life some popular sex myths.

Any man who is still a virgin must be gay

There are still shallow and close-minded people today who believe that any straight guy who is still a virgin must be gay. We think, if a man can't muster and demonstrate his masculinity, he must prove his manhood by having sex with girls. It's embarrassing to note though that there are closeted gay men who flaunt their straight colleagues to defend others can declaring they are straight. A country may spend for encouraging another man who has sex with a different girl every weekend, but that doesn't mean the virgin straight male doesn't exist.

You should have sex if you love the person

Sure, having sex is a way of expressing love for someone, but love yourself as well by making sure that you won't regret your decision. Remember that although you may want to prove how much you love your partner by having sex with him, he can also prove his love to you by not pressuring you to do something you're not ready to do. Love is a strong factor to consider before having sex, but it's not the only factor.

A girl won't get pregnant if there is no 'entry'

Some straight couples are rub-their sex organs against each other, thinking that the girl won't get pregnant if there is no penetration of the vagina by the penis. But pre-cum may enter the vagina as the girl may still get pregnant.

If the guy doesn't ejaculate, the girl

(Go) Back

Click with Team DSL

and excel with PLDT myDSL School Plan 999

Listen up, people! Here's the ultimate tool that can lead you to greater heights - PLDT myDSL. It's all you need to be part of our team!

PLDT recognizes your demand for a fast Internet connection that will help you multi-task and get work done in no time. In line with PLDT's corporate social mission to promote the value of knowledge and the Internet to young Filipino students and schools across the country, PLDT offers its **lowest priced myDSL School Plan 999. It is a special broadband plan available only for students nationwide at P999/month.**

See how much more you can accomplish with an unlimited Internet access at blazing 256 kbps speed. Download and surf all you want as you chill out after a hard day's work in school. Discover new information and learn more interesting skills and hobbies online. Stay connected with friends and loved ones via e-mail, messenger or online text through PLDT myPad's site at www.mypad.net. Like the members of Team DSL, all these and more will surely let you become the well-rounded person you aspire to be.

Studies show that "children who had TVs in their bedrooms scored lower on standardized tests than those who did not have TV sets. In contrast, having a home computer with access to the Internet resulted in comparatively higher test scores." *

Your college experience will be more exciting and rewarding once you get the right tool - PLDT myDSL School Plan 999.

* Borzekowski, Dina "Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine" John Hopkins University, 2000

Experience knowledge without boundaries and enjoy the perks of college life with PLDT's ultrafast and most affordable internet broadband plan -- PLDT myDSL School Plan 999. Application Forms will only be available at selected campuses nationwide. Call 171 or visit www.mypad.net for more details.

Dissecting the myth of the modern-day virgin

By Angelu V. Ignacio
2005 Correspondent

VIRGINITY? Is there still such a thing nowadays? a guy friend once scoffed when I raised the subject.

My other male classmates mumbled their usual white jokes in their cubicles as I used school class. I decided to try it at a different location.

"What if I told you every female in our section is one?"

Sure enough, I got a unanimous retort: "You're going to fainting."

I grudgingly agreed, but I couldn't help feeling a little miffed in their reaction. So, they think virginity is over concept, huh? Maybe the big V is used really lost its laby place in society?

No surprise

Nobody talks about virginity and few think it even exist anymore. It's no surprise that no one goes around bragging about being a virgin nowadays—it's worse than being a fourteen-child swine, but, yes, virgins still exist and, no, nobody's wrong with them.

What makes a virgin? For simplicity's sake, let's use the definition: "It's when no penis has ever entered a girl's vaginal orifice."

It's funny to think that in today's culture, pro-culture-dominated generation, virgins seem to have been lumped together with other endangered species, such as manatees and Japanese, non-chow-fun pinoy-related conditions. Certainly not, virgins were held as the highest esteem while women who had had premarital sex were ostracized and labeled as prostitutes or "damaged goods."

But now, the stigmatization of virginity seems to be fading fast. Suddenly, sexual activity is the norm, and anyone who's still a virgin by age 20 is probably plastered around a prime spot in Ripley's museum of one oddities.

Black or light colored, this demographic type of a missionary would qualify as the curiosity of the century. Nowadays, a friend who hasn't had sex would be the subject of a scandal among the

> Whether a girl is a virgin or not shouldn't matter if the man loves her. Her worth isn't measured by her virginity or lack of it

[Unreadable] years.

What has caused the [unreadable] becoming liberalism, modernization, pornography, subliminal (and not-so-subliminal) sexual messages from the media, etc., none of which we haven't heard of each emphasized about before. It doesn't take a Freud fail to figure out which among the plethora of sex-cited factors are responsible for the apparent "extinction" of virgins.

Stereotyped

One female friend recalled a time when one guy friends were lamenting the lack of virgins in this era. When she protested and told them she was one, the look of utter disbelief on their faces immediately made her regret even "coming out," even though she was among close friends.

They didn't they believe her because 1) she's beautiful, wise and sociable, 2) she's had boyfriends and 3) she's already in her 20s. As a disciple stole friend put it, "She doesn't look like one (sic) to..."

Unsurprises, I became less of a mean. Many Filipino women who have the looks and the social life to go with it are being so stereotyped whether they like it or not.

It's not uncommon to hear guys declaring, "I want to marry a virgin" every [1] seconds. These guys, some actually prefer to hook up with non-virgins—"So we don't have to waste time teaching them," as another friend put it pointblank. But reigning circumstances aside, I'm pretty sure those guys are secretly hoping they'll end up with a virgin.

Some still seem to believe this way: If you're a guy and you've had sex, you're a bona fide stud. But if you're a girl and you've had sex, you're a whore. Yes, maybe that still holds true. But in the so-called postmodern era where liberal sexual views continuously achieve new highs (or lows), that characteristic stereotype is slowly but surely becoming a thing of the past.

Love is the answer

The real question is: in the end is, does virginity really matter? After asking a whole bunch of males, the answer I got was unanimous: Whether a girl is a virgin or not doesn't matter if the man loves her.

A woman's worth isn't (and shouldn't be) measured by her virginity or lack thereof. There are still some people who remain virgins by choice and not because they are forced to be so. At the heart of it all is the most basic human right: freedom of choice.

E-mail the author at aiche_ne_yahoo @yanoo.net

The big V

By Niko Mark M. Sablan
2005 Correspondent

> The problem with sex at a young age is that, in most cases, the person is still not ready and mature enough to handle its consequences

ALL you still a virgin?" has got to be one of the questions a lot of teenagers want to ask other people. And while some do get to ask friends and other people, there are still a lot of us who'd rather wonder in silence and just speculate.

Because even though it's already 2005 and sexuality is no longer as taboo as it used to be, it's still something that's a lot of fun to say—comfortable talking about openly.

More than "yes" and "no," the usual answer to the question is "secret," and this connotes a lot of things. Apart from implying that virginity is one's own business and is something personal and private, it also suggests that people don't want to confirm or deny—probably because being sexy remains to be sexy.

One thing I've always found to be [illegible] about virginity is its definition. I mean, does deflowerization happen only when the penis penetrates the vagina? How do gay people lose their virginities? Hmm?

One thing I find ugly about virginity is that it unfortunately has double standards. While women have learned that "sex" is the only answer to virginity inquiries (since society teaches that "men strip" equals "slut"), men have been led to believe that any virgin male must be gay, and should be ridiculed.

Besides fallacies made, virginity remains to be a very sensitive and important topic among teenagers. In a generation where a lot of issues give us to pass pressure, giving up one's virginity is something one should think about a thousand times or so.

The problem with sex at a young age is that, in most if not all cases, the person is still not ready and mature enough to handle the consequences of sex. All by or this comes about is physical intimacy or sexual fulfillment, ignoring to forget about such matters as protection.

Such irresponsible behavior actually has consequences: unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, trauma, etc. Yeah, sure, sex is fabulous, but one has got to be ready—in all aspects—before jumping into bed and selling it.

Giving it up

So when should one give up one's virginity? After examinations, in the wheelchair? On honeymoon night, out of the condom?

There is no specific age, no scheduled time. Although a lot of idealists say honeymoon night is the best time to give up one's virginity, the truth is that it usually happens all the time. Some people just do it earlier than they should—sometimes such decisions results. Some people are just too curious sometimes. Others give in to peer pressure.

I've always heard of people saying that virginity is the best gift any woman can give her husband. It's very interesting (and unfair) how I've never heard of anyone saying the same thing about men and their future wives. While I agree with the viewpoint to a certain extent, I still believe that losing one's virginity to someone I have...only to see, made to friends, at the right place and time—is the best gift I can give myself.

Hold your tongues

By Ritesa Centeno
2005 Correspondent

THE WHOLE virginity issue, it seemed to me, had gone on for when I saw Kenya Santos (or some other bold star) proclaiming on TV that she was still a virgin. Here's the medical certificate, she said, triumphantly waving the document in her hand.

While I wholeheartedly agree with the commendable practice of maintaining a virgin until marriage, I think there must be something wrong with a system that forces women to come out and openly declare their virginity. After all, it's a personal decision...why does the whole teenager have to know it, let alone the entire town?

I can't be quite sure when and why virginity became more than just a personal matter. Perhaps it was when the mainstream media started to take up the issue, or maybe it was when the Catholic Church started to preach about it. Whatever it was, it's clear that there are now [illegible] with a guilty conscience), as one has the right to denounce girls...yes, girls because there's an existing double standard that allows males to have guiltless premarital sex—just because they do it.

Goodness, instead, the horror that lead them to it: the media that glorify sex, people who pressure their peers into losing their virginity at an early age and maybe the hormones that make it possible (cheap movies, etc., although it can be argued that these exist because people come to them in the first place).

Choice

But why condemn the people who lose their virginity before marriage? It's their life, their choice.

The best thing, perhaps, is to guide them to make the choices that you feel are right and are best for them, because there is no such thing as the right choice, only the best one.

It's funny to remember the way virginity was handled in high school. Anyone who was possibly not a virgin anymore was shunned by everyone. Was she any different from the rest? Did she walk and talk different? Was her ideas on sex too radical?

Many of us were shocked (or at least pretended to be) at the very idea of not being a virgin. Then a high-school classmate got pregnant, and suddenly, the idea was uncomfortably close to home. Someone we actually have lived [illegible] and she had no choice but to own up because the evidence was right before our very eyes.

She told us about her pregnancy during our senior year in school. The day before parents were scheduled to visit their respectively, some girls told their parents about it. After all, it was too good a secret to keep, and some even went as far as to tell their entire barkada. Instantly, the freaks—those busy discussing their judgment: "pasimunuan daw."

Trained to be shocked

That, of course, is the automatic reaction that our society has trained us to give. We are trained to be shocked by premarital sex—not as much as we were in high school, but we are shocked just the same—and the instinct to judge people without knowing their background, or what caused them to do it in the first place.

In the process, we are training a dishonest society, pushing people to be ashamed of their virginity (or the lack thereof) and to become hypocrites. There are too many stories of women lying to their partners and parents about the state of their hymen just so that could keep the respect of their partners/parents. And to the way we want things to be? We are slowly inching history to a responsible home.

Although the concept of virginity remains to remain more than an intact hymen, there is also more to life, love, intimacy and honor than virginity.

E-mail the author at ritesa-centeno@yahoo.com

Staying safe

By Maud P. Reyes
INQ7 Correspondent

LAST January, the Department of Health launched its "Lipat Bantis 2010" program. The campaign, which ran until March, aimed to reach 1 million women 15-49 years old who lived or at least shared the basic information on responsible parenthood, birth spacing and birth control choices, both natural and artificial.

"Lipat Bantis" was conceived after a national survey of two million men and women showed that there was an unmet need for sex education in the country. In fact, in Metro Manila alone, there were 364,415 respondents who were not aware of any kind of birth control method.

Unbelievably, even residents of the slum areas next to the DOH offices never heard of the program. Many of them take Mayor Lito Atienza's "Pro-Life" campaign a bit too literally, to say. 23-year-old mother said, "They believe that God gives them children because He wants them to have children. It's almost like it's a contest to see who has the most kids."

Which shouldn't be. While the government endorses natural birth control (the majority of the country being Roman Catholic, after all), it should come up to the fact that, according to the World Health Organization, one in six pregnancies ends up in abortion because it is either unplanned or unwanted. And 95% out of 95 unsafe abortions take place in developing countries.

WHO also stated that among the leading causes of deaths among women of reproductive age are complications related to pregnancy and child-bearing.

So be smart. Be safe and read up on birth control methods available in the country. The overview does not include exorcisms and ishal sorbasan.

Natural methods

Method: Rhythm/ Fertility Awareness/ Periodic Abstinence

What it is: Understanding a woman's reproductive cycle to know which days she is fertile—i.e. can get pregnant. A woman is generally fertile for only about a fourth of her cycle. There are three ways to measure fertility: the calendar method, temperature method and cervical mucus method.

Effectiveness: 75-95 percent

Cost: If you decide to make a chart on your own, then it's free. Although it's better to enlist the aid of a gynecologist, which would set you back around P400-P600.

Pros: The Catholic Church approves of it, plus it's free (well, almost).

Cons: If your menstrual cycle is irregular or you don't keep records or your partner can't handle abstinence for a week, skip this. Plus, you're at risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases. And, yes, you can get pregnant even if you have your period.

Method: Withdrawal

What it is: The guy withdraws before ejaculating.

Effectiveness: 75-96 percent

Cost: None.

Pros: It's free.

Cons: There's still a thing as pre-ejaculation, which means even though the guy hasn't come, some sperm may have already left the building. And yes, you can get pregnant from pre-ejaculation. And you're putting yourself at risk of contracting STDs.

Method: Abstinence

What it is: Total abstinence.

Effectiveness: 100 percent, unless there's some immaculate conception going on.

Cons: None. Well, maybe anxiety for some.

Pros: It has no fat/sodium/ or medical side-effects, you can't get any STDs and if you've saved yourself for marriage, you know your wedding gift to your partner would be more appreciated than a big screen TV.

Artificial family planning

Method: Male condom

What it is: This latex worn during intercourse, trapping the sperm and preventing ovulation.

Effectiveness: 85-95 percent

Cost: Could set you back P20 for a box of four.

Pros: Cheap, easy to buy and reduces the chance of catching STD. It can also protect against ingestion caused by changes in the pH balance of the vagina that can be unsettling to some. You don't need a prescription for this, plus it's lightweight and disposable.

Cons: Some say it dulls sensation, and a handful of men complain it pressures them to maintain an erection. Some may be allergic to latex, although there are plastic ones available.

Method: Female condom

What it is: A protective barrier method that is inserted deep into the vagina like a diaphragm.

Effectiveness: 79-95 percent

Cons: Check your local drugstores.

Pros: Protects against STDs, and you don't need a prescription.

Cons: Same as the male condom.

Method: Birth-control pills/ the pill

What it is: Pills containing hormones that prevent a woman's ovaries from releasing eggs (ergo, only women take them).

Effectiveness: 92-99 percent

Cost: From P50-P600 a pack, depending on the brand, plus your doctor's consultation fee. Or's best to consult a doctor on which brand is the right one for you. Check your local pharmacy.

Pros: Simple, safe, discreet and convenient. Combination pills, which contain both estrogen and progestin, can help get rid of acne, ease menstrual cramps, control of the ovaries and also helps regulate menstrual cycle.

Cons: Can't promote you from STDs, can't be used by those taking anti-depressants (check with your doctor) and can cause weight loss/gain.

Method: Intrauterine devices

What it is: Small "T" shape devices made of plastic, usually containing copper or hormones. It is inserted into the uterus.

Effectiveness: 98 8 percent

Cost: Ask your gynecologist, since this isn't available over the counter. IUD patients shell out between P350 and P,950.

Pros: Some women claim lighter (menstrual) flows. It can also...last surely...be used as an emergency contraceptive. According to Planned Parenthood, it reduces the risk of pregnancy by 99.9 percent if inserted within five days of unprotected intercourse.

Cons: Costly, can increase menstrual cramps and unplanned pregnancy when an IUD falls out without the woman noticing. The risk of pelvic infection and uterine puncture are also present: in three out of 1000 insertions, the uterus is accidentally punctured (so be sure to go to a doctor you can trust).

Method: Depo-Provera

What it is: A shot of hormones to regulate a woman's cycle. It prevents the ovary from releasing an egg cell, and thickens the cervical mucus to prevent the sperm from joining the egg.

Effectiveness: 97-99 percent

Cost: Ask your gynecologist. It isn't available everywhere and can be a bit pricey, depending on your doctor. US patients pay anywhere between $40 and $80.

Pros: The shot is effective for 12 weeks, plus it's discreet. It also helps prevent cancer of the uterus.

Cons: You have to take a shot every three months, and you can't wait on it for more than two years. Plus, you'll have to wait anywhere between nine months to a year since your last shot to get pregnant.

ILLUSTRATION FOR INQUIRER

LACOSTE
FOOTWEAR

• SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL, TEL NO. [illegible] • GLORIETTA 3, TEL. NO. 887-4071 • ROBINSONS PLACE MANILA, TEL. NO. 521-7338 • THE POWER PLANT MALL, TEL NO. 898-0992 • THE PODIUM, TEL. NO. 633-8108 • SM CITY DAVAO, TEL. NO. (082) 297-0501 • "NS GATEWAY MALL, TEL. NO. 912-5508 • ROBINSONS GALLERIA, TEL. 698-8090

Youth myths...

won't get pregnant

A guy is deluded if he thinks he's off the hook just because he didn't ejaculate in/on a woman. Even if a man doesn't ejaculate, there is still what is called pre-cum, which already contains sperm. It is also important to note that most men usually don't feel the release of pre-cum even each penetration.

Withdrawal method is safe and effective

The withdrawal method is not safe and effective. Consistence of sexually transmitted diseases is very probable, and pregnancy, too. As we have said, even before ejaculation, there may be pre-cum. Some men withdraw even when wearing a condom. But since condoms may have defects, withdrawal does not lessen the risk of condom failure as well as the rate of pregnancy and disease transmission.

A girl can't get pregnant if she had sex only once

Not untrue. All it takes is one egg-sperm intro. A girl can get impregnated and pregnant on the same time. Even without an orgasm, the girl can still get pregnant.

STDs cannot be contracted from having oral sex

The risk is lower with oral sex as opposed to vaginal or anal sex, but one can still contract or pass sexually transmitted diseases.

Having sex makes one an adult

Many teenagers rush into activities they want to be adults. But sex at an early age, especially when one isn't ready, can bring about negative complications and psychological problems.

Source: "Sex Files, Ep. 7 Making Adult Sex Sex, A Sex Comedy on Sex Myths" a sex-based educational material of the TEEN Masterpiece Production Media Project from the Foundation of Adolescent Development, Inc.

LIFESTYLE 24/7

The infamous university sex scandals should open our eyes to the dangers of risky intimate behavior aided by easy technology

Sex, school and videotapes

By Maureen Troy
Limpo Tatado
INQUIRER Correspondent

NOT a few have seen, or at least been offered, VCD/DVD copies of amateur sex tapes proliferating in the side streets, back streets and bungalows of Manila. While there is no novelty to speak of with regard to pornography, the idea of university students caught performing sexual acts on tape has largely been ignored by authorities.

The controversy over these sex tapes involving university students can be attributed to society's propensity to categorize and label. The seeming unlikelihood of young students from some schools participating in the pornographic trade prompts instant judgments. There are those who do this for a living, and there are those who don't.

Prior to the labeling, however, one has to ask: is it the content of the sex tapes or their unfortunate distribution that is offensive to general society's sensibilities?

Consensual?

Professor Fidanis Soriano of the Department of Sociology at the University of the Philippines, Diliman, says, "The crucial thing to look into is whether it was consensual or not." And consent has many complex sides to it. The participants' consent to engage in these sexual acts, the consent to have them taped and, finally, the consent to have the tapes distributed by persons who ostensibly profit from them.

If there was consent in the first two counts, what could have driven these students to perform sexual acts for a camera?

Soriano says, "We can look at it as an experiment. Some youth—not all—might be curious to experiment. What it's done already some of them might expect to be honest about it because of the novelty of the situation, but before they realize it, they've already leaned deep into the situation. There is definitely some form of curiosity, experimentation and discovering the fetishes of sexuality."

Professor Cristy Lanuza, also of the UP Department of Sociology, offers another view. "One, [they do it] maybe to preserve the memory. No. 2 is the thrill, and No. 3, there could be an ulterior motive [on the part] of the one who taped. Either party signing [signalling, public] as this is [a] pornographic eye."

Still, he emphasizes the element of consent.

"The motive here is that there should be an agreement between the participants. Dapat may kasunduan. Sa ayaw lang ito, pag lumabas ituro, puede ilang kasuhan for damages, or anyway. Those cases we think stips akin na kinakasuan na rin... It's exploitation, and at the same time, intrusion and invasion of privacy. What you do in private should not be seen by other people."

Deviant?

So are these so-called sex scandals a deviant form of behavior?

"It's very relative," Gutierrez explains. "If we look at what deviance is, deviance are acts or behaviors that are deemed to veer away from the norm and, as a consequence, are sanctioned, punished, apprehended by society. [The idea of videotaping] is not typical, so from that point of view it's deviant."

She adds that the definition of deviance can be unverbal. With our the participants' knowledge of the tapes being available for public consumption, the videos have only been for personal experimentation and nothing else. "The definition [of deviance] may be a little blurred there because, for some people, even pornographic isn't deviant, [but rather] a means of expressing one's sexuality," she says.

On Lanuza's part, "Hindi ako naniniwala sa deviance. What is the motive of the person who distributed these tapes? But I would not go so far as to say this is a pathological problem, to a neu-

>>> C2

Sex, school

From page C1

despite, the question is how these people navigate the ongoing process of their sexuality."

Exploitation

What is only obvious for Gonzaga is the idea of the fleeting the topic. "If the wrong, and true, film is not for us, it will not be the authority," this is where the church is the forwarding of the men, and, of course, the exploitation by the parties and the ones who profited. It's the subject."

The commissioner of young people in the parties and more people as a hot meeting in these years and a recognition to how the commission all movements of technology is abused.

Sr. Lorena puts it, "It has a lot to do with the availability of technology for recording and for reproduction of these videos [from] young students, say, video cam as the most accessible camera. At secondary school these are affordable and easily accessible, cheap things are sold to control... If you add women to the Paradiso, [when most everyday citizens] ..."

Gonzaga continues, "So, like students in the school who were originally selling pamphlets and were enjoying themselves have now become victims. When the videos are circulated, the dynamics of the situation changed."

"In all fault down to parish-centered answers (by the priests). Using sins, guns with malevolent. Unfortunately the market is saturated (with sex topics). So for these topics to be rare-catching, they have to come up with a controversy: sex scandals)," says Lorena.

Most videos, however, don't see it the sex. Rather, they are more likely to generate why the participants agreed to be videotaped in the first place. Gonzaga says that student's short part of the blame for the existing scandal, the young people today really were not really active, often in risky ways."

"I honestly see that these things are coming out," says Gonzaga. "I don't see right now as an 'epic' but right now, making redundant. But it has always been there, and the intensity are rising." According to the 2002 Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality (YAFS) Study, a nationwide survey conducted by the University of the Philippines Population Institute, in 2004, 17.8 percent of surveyed youth had had premarital sex. In 2002, this number had risen to 23.3 percent.

For Gonzaga, publicizing the topics represented "(A) more openness [resulting] of the permanent sex scene... sex exhibitionism. In the same source, the accepted notion of sex today is not society so that a man is done in the context of love, of marriage and of couples, of privacy."

Lorena notes that, "In one of the rapes reasons for refuge or holes, because the women confident that she was doing it for love. You have no right to publicize that because it's private."

Nevertheless, expectations on the women and her nonexhibitionist have for a man are also problematic. Aiza Seguerra real star Jiggy right today sex," he adds. "Sige ka nasa unit ng control ang babae. They were trained to become this where they have to look sexy, to be fair and they will be married. Dahil ganyan sa lalaki and [ganyan] sa lalaki, 'di ba? All, have earned ang mga kababaihan sa ano."

Snack value

The shock that many have these rapes explain why these topics are deemed "scandalous" in the first place.

"[There] are society regardless of customs, divisions, sometimes, it allows deviance to arise so that those in the front can continuously live through it so one can have for things would go," Gutierrez explains. "Some deviances are allowed to test the dangerous waters for the rest of us to see what happens next. People are always curious about, or maybe even confused by, the idea that these things happen, whether they desire pleasure or moral indignation from these things."

She also highlights the role of media in this factor. "You have to remember that for the media, unfortunately, sex and violence really sell."

And of course, sexual scenes are changing, aided in no small part by technology. Where might be left to the devices fantasy, becomes a place now. Gutierrez is the first to admit this. "On the basis of [these] incidents, I think the sexual scenes among Filipinos are gradually changing. It's changing through use of technology so the attitudes would have to follow."

But she has words of caution to share with young people who engage in risky sexual behavior. "But youth may not be as prepared as they think they are for the consequences of their sexual activity. There is emotional maturity as being unexpectedly."

Bella is already learning!

Scandal Asia

By Sabrena Dee Rebrus
2DT Correspondent

The Philippines is but catching up to Indonesia and Thailand when it comes to controversial sex videos

VIDEO scandals are nothing new to our Asian neighbors. In fact, the Philippines is but catching up to an already existing trend in this part of the world.

In Taiwan and Indonesia, similar scandals have paved the way for strengthening and removing laws that protect people from becoming hapless victims.

Controversial

Originally thought of as a scandal involving singer-actress Zhao Wei-wei's intimate videotape, Taiwan's most controversial sex video to date was said to have come out with a video consisted of its actual, "human" is the most controversial video in Indonesia to date.

The video, which came out in 2006, showed two college students celebrating their 23rd month as a couple in a hotel in Bogor, Indonesia. Ariel and Nazriah, then 20 and 19, seemed to capture the moment on videotape.

The gist, full, went to a video rental store to have the footage transferred to a video CD. The store attendant was happy to consider the footage and was happier when he saw what was in it. He made a copy for himself and several other friends.

One of the copies landed in the hands of both Ariel and Nazriah's friends. The two named the video "Inong" after a prominent member in Indonesia where the "Inong" were supposedly unveiled. They then sold copies of the video in the black market. It became the most controversial and most-talked about video in Indonesia.

Today, pirated copies of the video are available in other Asian countries like Singapore, Malaysia, even in Europe and the United States, and can also be downloaded from the Internet.

In a debut video long for Ariel and Nazriah's parents, relatives, schoolmates and even perfect strangers to see their home movie. The two were subjected to a great deal of shame and humiliation. Even their lawyers dropped out, reportedly didn't want to leave her room for months.

A predominantly Muslim country Indonesia has surprisingly lax laws on pornography and piracy if found guilty for participating, performing in or even framing such material, one can be punished with 10 months' imprisonment and fined Rp4,500 (less than $1) (25 euros or $32). With the rise of widely available amateur pornography, lawmakers are now considering harsher measures for these offenders.

Dominico and Rista were found guilty of copying and distributing the "Inong" video and were sentenced to nine months in prison. The court was Ade and Nazriah in reinforcing legislation. Ade was expelled from his college while Nazriah was suspended for two semesters.

Shock

The Taiwanese had the shock of their lives in 2003 when copies spread of hidden camera-taped steamy sex video footage Chi Mei-ling and a married Tsai Jen-chen, both businesspeople and officials.

Chi Mei-ling is a former director of the Cultural Affairs Bureau in Hsinchu County and a popular TV emcee, while Tsai was then a former mayor of Hsinchu City.

The then 38-year-old Chi was a beloved cultural director and pretty girl for the New Party. Most people looked up to her, and she was considered one of Taiwan's most promising women. Ironically, she was elected to stage as a boundless scandals in 2003 after she found a hidden camera by an agent, who knew that same device would be her downfall during a debt sale later.

Most than 10 pinhole surveillance cameras were found inside her agent's room. Investigators also found a dozen or so other recording devices inside her home, office and car. Clearly, the perpetrator was out to destroy Chi's character.

It turned out that the hidden cameras were placed by Chi's spiritual advisers and trusted friend, Hao Su-ling. And in a shocking twist, the person who ordered the placement of the tapings was also videotaped in the act. Officials then the video "tests" of the videos. Tsai Jen-chen. The 40-minute video was said to have been peddled to the mass times by Tsai's daughter, Kao Chun-chun.

While politics was an easy explanation, it was not apparent that the motive against Chi was more on a personal level, if all of this unconditional after Chi's intimacies with Tsai and Tsai had reportedly soured.

Copies of the VCD were reportedly sold at $30 in the black market. The tabloid magazine Next once distributed the copies by adding them in one of its issues. The Taiwanese government eventually seized copies of the video once the magazine was recovered.

Perpetrators caught out your inquisitiveness for Tsai and four years for his lover (relaxing the country's prison) for as well as for theft, forgery, and underserving morality. Some people say that Chi was entirely charged with extortion, the pictures.

Hardcore quiet for some time but later could and she cracked the women in the Taiwanese video. She explained to grow, saying that she "hope had compassion and revel."

A victim's tale

By Sabrena Dee Rebrus
2DT Correspondent

KRISTINA (not her real name) was like any other typical college student. She was a normal girl who went to school in the morning and worked in a bakery in one of the many branches of a big coffee shop chain in Manila at night.

She was an average student, a loving son to her younger siblings and a good daughter who supported her mom. You could almost call her life perfect. She even had the biggest and most promising job on campus as a tambayan. What she didn't have was time for boyfriend. Well, she didn't have the time for boyfriend until one day when she met Jeremy.

"It was my friends who introduced me," Kristina said, "I wouldn't have found out had they not told me."

Jeremy was her becoming the biggest mistake not one in the country without her knowing it. She had become part of a video scandal.

Blacking out

As fate, Kristina finished off a latina of her long party to one of the many cases, one sex videos spreading all over the internet and the cell service of Manila. "I don't even recall having been filmed anywhere, not even for any school project," she said.

One of her friends said that her cousin, who studied on the other side of the metro, received a copy of it over the internet. Another immediately asked to have a copy sent to her.

"Something it was like passing a gun to [one] head and pulling the trigger," Kristina recalled. She was now the center stage while her friends were crying all around her. She remembered thinking that she was reliving several lives were just one of a bad nightmare. She simply couldn't believe what was happening. The girl on the video was her, and the scandal was rumoring her the entire thing was ruined.

Kristina's then-boyfriend "dumb" one of the younger of the entire camp, but he was aware of something else. At one point, he let out of his bedside sight him while doing the deed.

Friends in a very different position. Kristina additionally entered morning classes. She also dropped from work. To very answers were her schedule like meeting her death. It was also at this time that her schoolmates found out about the video. One time in a mall, a schoolmate almost the house code to run could be to her. But when the girl thought to them was not visible random attention, she said something nasty, so nasty that Kristina was reduced to tears.

As most Kristina's situation worse, Mark left for Europe without saying a word. Apparently, the humiliation was too much for him to handle. Alone and very depressed, Kristina came down to committing suicide. "I was in that moment of time I no longer saw why I should still continue to live," she said.

Kristina was close to losing everything. Her lover was on hold because she refused her graduating seemed impossible with all of her absences, and her mother was afraid seeing no interest over her sudden depression.

Sources of strength

Kristina's friends and his faith in God became her sources of strength. Her friends did everything to get her mind back on her feet. They talked to her teachers to give her needed classes. They candle could go another job to a company that (I recently have many employers) and got new look.

Most, the majority, the new feel to smear his will from the video. And the slowly beginning to move on from her relationship experience.

"There no good days when I don't think about it. But there are days when I don't cry over everyone is out to judge me," Kristina said. Other times, she becomes paranoid about people watching her. Do you ever see [someone] standing? Any people don't really know me and the video through and who they [is to a person.

What lesson has she learned from experience? "God doesn't give us trials [because we can't overcome," said Kristina

LIFESTYLE 24/7

Great news for shoe lovers—Hotwind is here

THE FASHION FREAKS

Shanghai's sole secret

By Pam Pastor
Photos by Rolly Larroa

WHEN Filipinos in the know fly to Shanghai, one boutique is always on their must-visit list.

Hotwind.

This is where they buy discounted-but-designer-looking shoes at very affordable prices. "Some women buy eight or even 10 pairs at a time," Andrea Cruz said.

Andrea, along with her friends Rommel Juan, Rina Mercado and Jocelyn Rhodes, decided to bring the fun to Manila for the benefit of shoe-loving Pinays.

Most of the brands are not new to local, nor, and Hotwind is their first plunge into the shoe industry. Why shoes?

"Because we all like shoes," Andrea said simply.

But bringing in Hotwind isn't as easy as it sounds.

"We pre-sold them big time, but the language barrier was a major problem. It took four months of negotiations before we were finally able to bring the shoes in," Andrea said.

Apparently, the Shanghai-based brand wasn't too keen on exporting their products. They were more than satisfied with their huge market in China, but the partners didn't give up easily. They hired an interpreter, kept in constant touch with the people behind the brand and flew to and from Shanghai to their desire to get the rights to bring the shoes here.

First export base

Their efforts paid

Shanghai's sole secret

From page B1

THE CHARM is in the detail. Richelieu offers traditional dress with a twist.

ell. They succeeded in making the Philippines the first country outside China to carry (Aerosoles). "This is their first international export," Andrea said.

Three weeks ago, their first shipment of 400 hundred pairs arrived in Manila and customers have already reserved months ahead.

The shoes can be described as fun, modern, feminine and sophisticated. They come in traditional shapes but each pair has a twist.

And this brand's charm is in their attention to detail. The added bling, the colorful ribbon, the leather flower, the glittery strap, the stitching that matches the inside of the shoe perfectly, even the oval-shaped design on the sole.

"They don't stop at just making the shoe. They don't have to make the insole beautiful because you're just gonna step on it but they do. But they both think about it," Andrea, who has a dozen pairs of (Aerosoles) shoes, said.

Yeni Newview editor Pauline Stacia Aunt is a fan. "On days when I know I'll be running around, I wear (Aerosoles) because I know they're comfortable," she said.

Unique

Another thing that would attract shoe lovers on the store is its promise of uniqueness. "We don't carry a lot of the same styles. There's only one pair for each size for every style," Andrea said. That lessens your chances of walking into a party and spotting someone else wearing the exact same shoe.

Footmist shoes are available from size 5 to size 9, at around P1,500 to P1,800 per pair. More styles will come in every month.

"We still want to maintain the brand's exclusivity, we want to be almost like a secret shop," said Andrea. "This is an experimental set-up. The long-term plan is to be in a mall."

The store, which was designed by Jesus Rodriguez, is comfortably elegant, pretty much like the brand itself.

Stressed is located at the 3/F Ayala Ops. Ctrl 196 EDSA Mckinley Londonderry 199 Gamboa St., Legaspi Vil. Ilgy, Makati. Store hours are from 10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., open Monday to Saturday. Call (63) 5.8999 loc 4 or text 09179065 to 2255.

Do you want The Fashion Freaks covers your event or check out your styles? E-mail us at thefashionfreaks@yahoo.com.

Shopping for a cause

By Rita J. Rivas, Roxanne Gay S. Nolles, Jeffrey Jose Chan
INQUIRER.net

MAKE on Manila (MOM) Foundation Inc. and Priorityman Philippines Inc. are collaborating in fostering volunteerism.

For its 6th anniversary, Priorityman has formed a partnership with MOM in launching the Volunteer In Power (VIP) Day, a grand celebration of the spirit of volunteerism set for October.

Pauline Uriz, Priorityman warehouse manager, helped launch the partnership last July 27 at the The Fort. The event saw the Mobile Supermarket tour.

Cynthia Torres, Priorityman general manager, explained how the once project would help rekindle camaraderie in the country. "Our aim is to be able to tell the public how they can participate in active building in some other ways and not just in running for office," she said.

Anna Dee Mendiz, a trainee of MOM and this year's VIP Day chair, said the media sector is partners in expanding volunteerism. "We wanted the media to know how it is to give, having done something for others," he said.

In the race, 30 teams with three members each came to present its media representative, one campus media representative and an MOM partner representative were given a P150,000 budget by Priorityman. They used the money to purchase goods to be donated to an MOM partner. Each team was given a shopping cart and the list of the items which they needed to buy in 30 minutes. They should not exceed their budget.

Campus media representatives included students from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines in Tagaig, Imus Pacific College and Don Bosco College.

Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries were the Hijos de Sto. Domingo de Pisal, Bahay Bituin Children Center, Holy Family Homes Inc. Gerli Kinkan Foundation Inc., Jesus Loves the Little Children Foundation, Kadugan Drakwall Center Foundation, Sarmoh Homes, Pangarap Shelter Foundation, Street Dwellers, Tahanan Sta. Juanita and Tulay na Lim Buon Foundation Inc.

Jeffrey Dasc, who represented Inyanco-2007, Jaime Floyd Arroyo, a 2nd year B.S. Chemical Engineering student at the Asia

OH YOUR eyes, get set, shop. Teams get ready to zoom down the supermarket's aisles (far left) like winners Jeffrey and Ed of Team Pangarap Shakar rushing to beat the clock

CONTESTANTS show just how much fun giving can be.

A shopping race boosts volunteerism

SHOPPING SPREE. One of the participants grabs goods off the shelves.

Pauile College and Ed Lorenzo, an educator and MOM representative from Pangaing Shkt ter Foundation, scrupulously checked the items.

Their strategy was simple: they put fun items on their heads so they wouldn't lose sight of one another and they divided the shopping assignments for faster shopping.

Soon, all 30 teams were zooming down the supermarket aisles in search of their goods.

Ten minutes ended quickly for the shoppers. They were asked to sit back as their items were checked and evaluated.

Jeffrey, Jomar and Ed—from Pangaing Shelter—emerged victorious, with their grocery totalling P6,774.34. Their efficient budgeting and fast movement allowed them to bag the prize. But according to them, winning was only a second priority. They knew it was more important to purchase the items for their NGO partners.

The rest of the teams were asked to continue shopping as they could maximize their P150,000 budget.

The Super Market Race was just the kick-off event to launch Manila De Manila's VIP day.

It was a great day for giving. And it was on to the beginning.